



THE INDEPENDENT

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IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Hoddle 0, Disabled 1 (Hoddle o.g.)

BY JOHN DAVISON
and LINUS GREGORIADIS

GLENN HODDLE was sacked from his position as England coach last night after admitting a "serious error of judgement" in expressing controversial beliefs about reincarnation and the disabled.

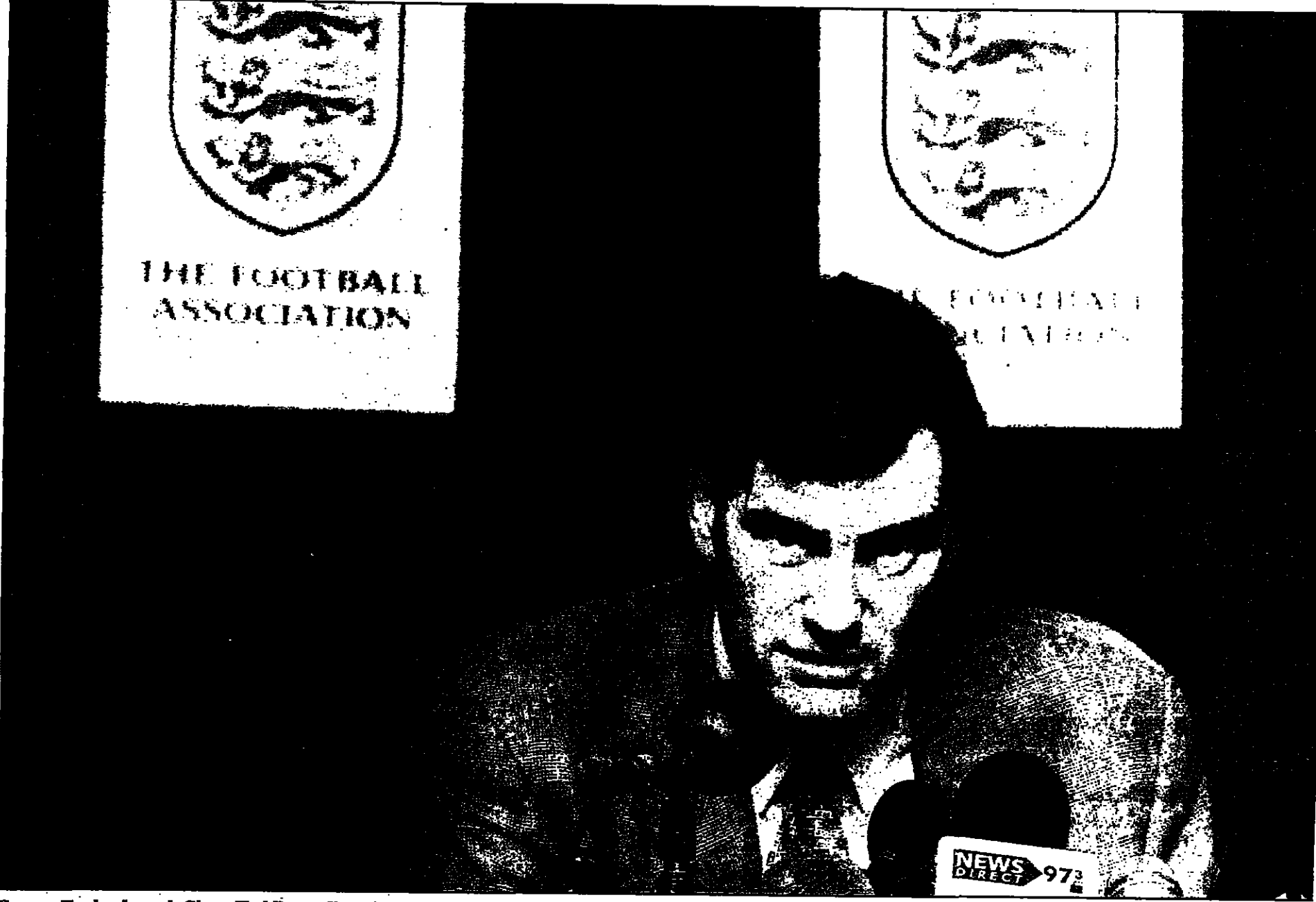
The announcement was made by David Davies, acting chief executive of the Football Association, after days of speculation over the England coach's future. "With regret the FA and Glenn Hoddle have agreed to terminate Glenn's contract," said Mr Davies. "After more than 24 hours of meetings and discussions it became apparent to all those concerned that this was the right decision for English football."

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Hoddle later admitted his error, saying: "I accept that I made a serious error of judgement in an interview which caused misunderstanding and pain to a number of people. This was never my intention and for this I apologise."

Just a minute after beginning his statement, Mr Davies had to take what he jokingly described as a "commercial break" caused by a disturbance in the hall. A man wearing a Liverpool shirt burst into the room and started chanting "We want Hoddle out" before being wrestled to the floor and bundled away by security guards.



Former England coach Glenn Hoddle reading his statement to the media last night after his sacking

Peter Macdiarmid

'The past few days have been painful for everyone, but that is as nothing compared to any offence that may have been caused to disabled people in our community and our country'

- David Davies, Football Association

'I accept that I made a serious error of judgement in an interview which caused misunderstanding and pain to a number of people. This was never my intention and for this I apologise'

- Glenn Hoddle, ex-England coach

Solitary slow handclap for departing coach

BY GARY FINN

GLENN HODDLE'S England career ended last night with a solitary slow hand clap from the media scrum that expedited his downfall.

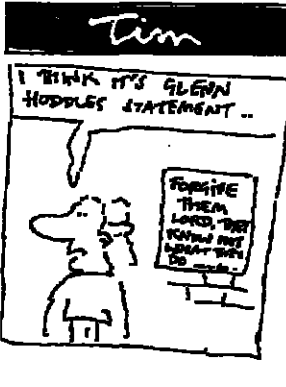
Looking out at the massed ranks of photographers, television crews and sports writers, Hoddle, flanked by his agent, Dennis Roach, delivered a

terse statement acknowledging his own part in his downfall. "Regrettably, you will have heard that my contract with the FA has been terminated by mutual consent," he said. "I accept that I made a serious error of judgement in an interview which caused misunderstanding and pain to a number of people. This was never my intention and for this I apologise."

view which caused misunderstanding and pain to a number of people. This was never my intention, and for this I apologise. "My sincere thanks for the support from loved ones, family, friends and media colleagues who have worked with me over the past few days to try and establish the truth. My

personal thanks go to all my staff, colleagues and in particular the players, with whom I have worked with over the past two years as England coach. I thank them deeply. My best wishes go to Howard Wilkinson, John Gorman, who take over for the match against France. Thank you very much."

He took no questions and left the conference at the Royal Lancaster Hotel to the lone clap. His father, Eric, speaking from his home in Harlow, Essex, was furious. "The press are happy now, they have been after him from the first day he had the job and they've always had it in for him."



Kosovo peace hopes rise as rebels join talks

BY RAYMOND WHITAKER in Pristina

INTERNATIONAL HOPES for a peace deal in Kosovo rose sharply yesterday after a spokesman for the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), the ethnic Albanian guerrillas fighting a war of independence against Serbia, announced that the group would attend talks due to start near Paris on Saturday.

Jakup Krasniqi, spokesman for the general headquarters of the KLA, said: "We are definitely going to the talks with our proposals." It marked the first time the rebels have agreed to participate in negotiations.

The KLA will today name its negotiators for the talks, which are the last hope of averting more death and suffering for the population of Kosovo. The rebels' acceptance of the international community's summons to the talks at the chateau of Rambouillet means that all the main players on the Albanian side have agreed to attend, and the world is now waiting for the answer of the Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic.

Nato has threatened air strikes if the Serbs do not come to the negotiating table. James Rubin, the US State Department spokesman, said: "I think the Serb side will be making a big, big mistake if they doubt the determination of Nato to use military power if they fail to show up at these negotiations." Despite indications from several figures around Mr Milosevic that the Serbs would attend, the President has handed the decision to parliament, which is to vote tomorrow.

Nato has also imposed a deadline of two weeks from Saturday for a deal to be reached, but what will happen if and when the talks start at Rambouillet remains in question. Mr Krasniqi said yesterday that the KLA would call a referendum on independence from Yugoslavia after any interim autonomy plan, expected to last three years, runs out.

While this appears to be a softening of previous demands by the group for immediate independence, any suggestion that Kosovo should be allowed to break away will be unacceptable to Mr Milosevic. The potential for disunity on the Albanian side was also demonstrated yesterday when Adem Demaci, the KLA political spokesman, said he would recommend to the military command that they stay away from the talks.

boys and girls
stay in to play on
wednesday nights

NEW SERIES
OF SEX AND
THE CITY
START
TONIGHT
FROM 9PM

free George Clooney
poster inside

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shaking a baby to death
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THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

| | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| Australia | 6.00 AM | 12.00 PM |
| Canada | 4.00 AM | 8.00 AM |
| France | 7.00 AM | 1.00 PM |
| Germany | 5.00 AM | 11.00 AM |
| Italy | 6.00 AM | 12.00 PM |
| Japan | 1.00 PM | 7.00 PM |
| Spain | 6.00 AM | 12.00 PM |
| USA | 4.00 AM | 8.00 AM |



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هكذا من الأفضل

Frigate
crash-l
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Court told of unit rigging

100,000 face £100 tax form

Police robber' suspect

Frigatebird crash-lands at seaside

A SPECTACULAR tropical seabird is being nursed back to health at a secret location after crash-landing in British waters. It is the first time one of the birds has survived the journey from the Caribbean.

The magnificent frigatebird, which has an 8ft wing-span, was picked up exhausted and close to death on a beach near Castletown on the Isle of Man by a wildlife enthusiast who has since been looking after it at her home.

Thousands of bird-watchers want to see the exotic casualty, only the second to have been recorded in the UK (the other bird died), but the woman's name and address are being kept secret to avoid disturbance to her patient. Ted Abraham, founder of the

By BRIAN UNWIN

Merseyside-based Birdline North West Information Service, said yesterday: "So far no more than two or three people have seen the bird, which has been confirmed as an adult female magnificent frigatebird."

The bird was picked up in an extremely weak condition on 22 December but its arrival was kept secret until now. "It must have been blown into the Irish Sea by one of those severe south-westerly gales during December," Mr Abraham said.

"Frigatebirds are among the few birds able to ride out hurricanes in flight but this one was probably in a poor state due to being in the air a long time - they never land on water - and difficulties over



An adult female magnificent frigatebird (fregata magnificens) similar to the one being nursed back to health on the Isle of Man

NHPA

feeding in the storms." It is now recovering on a diet of squid and arrangements are expected to be made with an airline to give it a free flight

back to the West Indies, from where it most likely originated, when it is fully fit, Mr Abraham said. "A lot of people are hoping it will be released here so

they can see its return to the wild but the danger is that it would not be able to find its way back to the Caribbean and would end up coming to grief

on another British Isles beach," he said. However, negotiations had begun for the bird to be transferred to a wildlife care centre on the

mainland where, as well as receiving treatment, it could be seen by bird-watchers. "One complication is that it needs to go through a process of dehu-

manisation so it can live in the wild again. In the tropics, frigatebirds have become tame by people feeding them," Mr Abraham added.

Fury over 'birth control' implant

A PROPOSAL that girls as young as 10 could in the future be implanted with long-acting hormonal contraceptives sparked a row yesterday over the best way to tackle Britain's high teenage birth-rate.

Professor John Guillebaud, medical director of the Margaret Pyke Centre in London and an expert adviser to the Family Planning Association, said a highly effective hormonal implant which has just received its European licence was "ideal" for young girls who are more likely than older women to forget to take the Pill or use a condom.

But his proposal was attacked by anti-abortion and conservative family organisations, who accused him of recommending the "chemical castration". It also caused consternation within the family planning movement.

The row centres on a Dutch-made device called Implanon, a rod of hormones, 5 centimetres long, that is inserted under the skin of the arm and lasts for three years. It was granted a European licence last December and is expected to be ratified by the Medicines Control Agency at the end of the month.

Professor Guillebaud, who set out his vision of the future of contraception at a conference in London 10 days ago, said: "In the future, and as a social policy, when you have an area with a huge rate of teenage pregnancies you could go into a school, obviously with the consent of the parents, and fit this device so that everybody would start out not being able to have a baby."

"It could be fitted into girls once they have had their periods but before they have had sex - for instance, at the time

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

when they were having their rubella jabs."

Professor Guillebaud said yesterday that his remarks had been misinterpreted to suggest he was recommending girls of 10 be fitted with contraceptive devices today when he was speculating about what might happen a decade or more hence.

"As of now, Implanon might be used for young girls who are already sexually active and who have difficulty remembering to take the contraceptive pill," he said. "But I was looking ahead to some future society where, given the technology to switch fertility on and off without side-effects, we might choose to put the whole of society on it. I don't think society is ready for it yet and the implication that girls could now go and have sex at age 10 was not my message at all."

Valerie Riches, of Family Youth Concern, said yesterday: "I think the whole idea is repugnant. It will give youngsters the go-ahead to engage in sexual intercourse at an even earlier age." The family campaigner Victoria Gillick said: "This amounts to the spaying of young children. It is outrageous. It is the wholesale sterilisation of young children. It is chemical castration. It is repugnant."

Even the Family Planning Association distanced itself from the idea. Ann Weyman, its chief executive, said: "We believe girls should be encouraged to have the self-confidence to take control of their lives and make responsible decisions about relationships. Contraception has to be viewed within this broader context."

IN BRIEF

Prisoner takes teacher hostage

BRITAIN'S MOST disruptive prisoner Charles Bronson returned to his bad old ways yesterday as he took a prison teacher hostage. Bronson claimed to have become a reformed character after making contact with his 26-year-old son, who he had not seen since he was three.

Court told of vote rigging 'loan'

GLASGOW GOVAN Labour MP Mohammed Sarwar signalled an offer of £5,000 in exchange for a false statement over vote rigging, the High Court in Edinburgh was told by his election rival Badar Islam yesterday. Mr Sarwar denies electoral fraud. The case continues.

650,000 face £100 tax form fine

MORE THAN half a million people are to be fined by the Inland Revenue after failing to file their tax returns by Sundays' deadline. Nine million tax forms were due but 650,000 people missed the deadline and will face an automatic fine of up to £100.

'Flat-cap robber' suspect held

DETECTIVES HUNTING Britain's most wanted bank raider - dubbed the "flat-cap robber" - have arrested a man, 53, who was being held in Staffordshire, police said yesterday. The arrest follows a nationwide publicity campaign by police who produced a life-size cardboard cut-out of the culprit to gain information about his identity.

Lord of the rings.

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Blair's precedent for governance by daytime television

NOW THAT Tony Blair has established a precedent for governance by daytime television, with his appearance on *This Morning* we should presumably brace ourselves for an extension of the principle.

The Royal Commission's report on reform of the House of Lords could be presented as a *Style Challenge* makeover show, that flustered and under-used Upper Chamber transformed, with the help of glass bricks and several tons of MDF, into a bright and airy family room.

In *Can't Fight, Won't Fight* Robin Cook could show Mr Milosevic and the KLA how to put together a palat-

able peace settlement in 30 minutes, whipping up the studio audience with his catchphrase: "The planes stand ready on 48-hour notice".

And there are obvious television models for the adversarial business of the House itself, daytime programmes in which a strong female authority-figure moderates between surly antagonists, refereeing their emotional fire fights and deciding when to take interventions from the floor. Give Madam Speaker a radio-mike, allow her to roam dynamically between the front benches and we could have Betty as a rival to Vanessa and Trisha.

It's only fair to say, though, that if yesterday had been the pilot the series would never have been made. The producers couldn't be blamed for the casting. On one side there was Frank Dobson, a no-nonsense type who's happy to mix it up when the occasion demands. On the other there was Ann Widdecombe, a feisty dame who usually huris herself at Labour skittles like a bowling bowl that has discovered a passionate sense of vocation. On paper the chemistry was perfect - if we were very lucky we might even get a fist fight - but for some reason it just wouldn't ignite.

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

Ms Widdecombe, for one, could hardly be coaxed out of a mutter-

ing passivity - even when Virginia Bottomley opened up the most promising Opposition salient, the issue of National Health Service rationing, she sat there, steadfastly refusing to go over the top. Perhaps she had simply been demoralised by the broadly unassailable front the Health Secretary presented, given that he'd just announced large pay rises for nurses. Ms Widdecombe couldn't attack that and nor could she get a fingernail underneath the statement that followed, that NHS Direct, a telephone medical advice service designed to stop people calling an ambulance when they stub

their toe, had been a great success and was to be expanded. Instead she left the dirty work to her lieutenant, Alan Duncan. He hoped that he would not shock the Health Secretary but it was his happy task "to give NHS Direct a general welcome". Mr Dobson did appear a little out of his depth - conceding that "it would be churlish not to welcome the general welcome", but he struggled back to the dry land of robust contempt.

The highlight of the afternoon was a more old-fashioned style of programming - one of those straight-to-camera monologues in

which a distinguished old gentleman holds forth extempore without the benefit of a teleprompter. Sir Edward Heath, speaking in the second day of the debate on Lords reform, held the House with a speech that wasn't fluent exactly - some pauses were rhetorical, some merely marked the anxious gap during which his argument sought its bearings. Across the floor Tony Benn nodded with approval as Sir Edward conceded that the days of hereditary privilege were passed.

As daytime television it was low on thrills, but as a parliamentary occasion I'd happily watch a repeat.

Mandelson's lone stand on Lords

PETER MANDELSON used his comeback in the Commons last night to claim he was "the lone voice" who proposed to set up a Royal Commission on House of Lords reform.

LORDS REFORM BY SARAH SCHAEFER AND PAUL WAUGH

Its functions should contribute to provide the "much needed glue" to keep Britain together at the time of devolution by reflecting the new regional structures. Similarly it should address the remoteness and lack of legitimacy of the political institutions of the European Union. "If we could create



Peter Mandelson: Wanted Royal Commission

a link between national Parliaments and the European Parliament, this would help to overcome that slight gulf that has opened up."

Earlier Sir Edward Heath broke ranks with William Hague by calling for the outright abolition of the hereditary principle and called for the hereditary Upper Chamber to be replaced by a fully elected House of Lords.

"I want to see the abolition of the hereditary principle. It is over. We should move on to a de-

mocratic arrangement. It must be elected today. This will cause some astonishment - I hear a great gasp of breath," he said.

"I believe the time has come for the end of hereditary peers in politics. I believe that with absolute conviction. We have now moved to the stage, about to go into the next millennium, and it is time it came to an end."

John Major, the former prime minister, seized upon Mr Mandelson's remarks. "Not since Satan denounced sin have I heard such a recantation as those remarks about devolution," he said.

Mr Major, MP for Huntingdon, said that the Bill was a "vindictive" measure that proved the Government was determined to remove all dissent against it. Mr Major agreed that the hereditary principle was "dead" but warned that the Royal Commission needed more time to come up with a sensible plan for a reformed Upper House.

The Government's "mean, inadequate little Bill" was part of a wider contempt for Parliament and its traditions that the Government also showed for its own backbenchers.

"This House should remember that it is the master of government and not its servant. The real question that lies behind all the constitutional change," he said.

"Liberty needs protection from democracy and this government are tearing apart, piece by piece, Act by Act, the most sophisticated constitution of them all with little understanding of what they are doing."



Tony Blair on board the train from Paddington yesterday on his way to Bristol and then on to Wales

John Voos

Row over 'dirty tricks' tactics

THE BATTLE for the Labour leadership of the Welsh Assembly entered its bitterest phase yet, with the rival campaigns accusing each other of "dirty tricks" tactics.

As Tony Blair paid his third visit to Wales in three months, supporters of Rhodri Morgan, the rebel backbencher, and Alun Michael, Secretary of State for Wales, criticised each other yesterday.

The Morgan camp claimed that its opponents had breached party rules by sending out an extra leaflet to all 25,000 Labour Party members

WALES BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

in the principality on the same day as ballot papers were mailed. But as Mr Morgan's supporters submitted a formal complaint about the leaflet, the Michael camp produced their own evidence of "sleaze" by their rivals.

The Welsh Secretary's campaign team revealed that the pressure group Charter 88 was furious that Mr Morgan's staff suggested it was prepared to fund ballots of Labour-

affiliated organisations ahead of the leadership vote on 20 February. Charter 88 has asked Mr Morgan to launch an urgent investigation into why his team wrote to the Labour Students organisation in Wales, saying: "We can make money available to fund a ballot, from a source coming via Charter 88."

Greg Power, the pressure group's acting director, told Mr Morgan: "Charter 88 is a politically independent organisation and we take the view that these matters are for the political parties themselves ... We are very concerned about

the way in which Charter 88's name has been used."

Peter Hain, the Welsh Office minister who runs the Michael campaign, said that the revelations suggested "unethical behaviour". He added: "What could have been a constructive contest about policy and the direction of Wales has been confounded by Rhodri Morgan's unscrupulous tactics. The Charter 88 ruse has now been exposed as a complete lie."

Yesterday, both sides insisted they were optimistic about victory, claiming that telephone canvassing had shown leads for

their candidate. Although Mr Morgan has a head start, the Secretary of State's allies claim he has the momentum to win after securing the backing of the AEEU engineering union. A key test will be the vote of Unison, the public service union, which has 5 per cent of the total votes in the electoral college.

The electoral college gives a third of the votes to trade unions and other affiliated organisations, a third to constituency parties, and a third to Welsh Labour MPs, MEPs and candidates for the assembly.

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Irvine accused of cronyism on government legal work

THE FORMER chambers of Tony Blair's professional mentor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, have received more government work than any other in London since Labour came to power, it was revealed last night.

Tories accused Lord Irvine - now the Lord Chancellor - of "cronyism" after it emerged that the account had been swollen by the appointment of one of his former colleagues to a government post.

Philip Sales, a barrister in Lord Irvine's former chambers, was appointed first Treasury counsel at the end of 1997. That means he is a preferred barrister who regularly represents government departments in court cases, but is paid private rates on a case-by-case basis.

LEGAL AFFAIRS BY FRAN ABRAMS Westminster Correspondent

Although Mr Sales was appointed by the Attorney General, John Morris, Lord Irvine was consulted about it.

Since May 1997, the ground-floor chambers at 11 King's Bench Walk has received £36,687 for services to the Lord Chancellor's department. Of 24 London chambers listed in a written answer to David Ruffley, the Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, only five received more than £10,000. Three received between £5,000 and £10,000, and 14 received between £1,000 and £5,000. One chambers received just £164 and another £840. Last night,



Lord Irvine: PM's mentor

Mr Ruffley said that from the answer, "it looks like jobs for the boys and cronyism".

A spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's department said it was to be expected that the

Treasury counsel's chambers would receive more work than any other. "He advises all government departments on matters for which counsel's opinions are sought," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Attorney General's department, which made the appointment, said Mr Morris had consulted the Lord Chancellor and the Treasury solicitors' department, which does the Government's legal work, before taking a decision.

Since then, a working party headed by Lord Falconer of Thoroton, another old friend of Tony Blair who was ennobled after the election and is now a Cabinet Office minister, had recommended that in future the post should be advertised.

Minister admits he misled MPs over tax return

TRADE AND INDUSTRY BY FRAN ABRAMS

MICHAEL WILLS, the new Small Business minister, is facing claims that he misled the Commons when he told MPs his own firms had always filed their tax returns on time.

John Redwood, the Conservatives' trade and industry spokesman, has demanded an apology from Mr Wills, who was appointed as an unpaid minister after the resignation of Peter Mandelson.

Mr Wills' television production firm, Juniper Communications, filed late returns twice and late accounts three times, according to Mr Redwood's research at Companies House.

The Tory spokesman raised the issue in the House 10 days ago. Mr Wills had said: "Every company with which I have been associated has filed its returns in compliance with the deadlines set by Companies House." Mr Redwood proceeded to list the occasions on which Juniper had not fulfilled legal requirements.

Yesterday, in a letter to the Conservative spokesman, Mr Wills said he believed the statement he made to the House was correct. He had been referring not to Juniper but to another firm he used to own. In a letter to Mr Wills last night, Mr Redwood called for a retraction of his Commons statement.

London mayor

THE NEW Greater London Assembly should be given the power to sack the mayor of London, Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrats' London spokesman argued. An amendment to the Greater London Authority Bill was tabled in committee.

Electronic trade

THE GOVERNMENT will stifle electronic commerce if it enacts a Bill to force companies to give it copies of electronic security "keys", representatives of the electronics industry and Internet services providers warned in evidence to the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee.

THE HOUSE



GP fundholding

Ann Widdecombe, the Tory health spokeswoman, accused the Government of "effectively abolishing" GP fundholding arrangements before legislation to achieve this had cleared Parliament after it emerged that 481 primary care groups were due to start work on 1 April this year.

NHS lists cut

NHS waiting lists in England have fallen by more than 150,000 since April last year, John Denham, the Health Minister of State, said. "By next April, we will deliver a record reduction in waiting lists to below the 1.16 million patients inherited from the previous Government," he said in a Commons written reply.

Drugs success

RANDOM DRUG tests on prisoners have led to a reduction in narcotics abuse in 1998, the Home Office minister Lord Hylton announced. The number of positive tests fell from 24.4

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

per cent in 24.4 per cent in 1996-97 to 18.8 per cent in the first seven months of 1998-99.

Today's agenda

- Commons 9.30am:
 - Genetically modified food
 - London Fire Service
 - At 2.30pm International Development questions.
 - At 3pm questions to the Prime Minister:
 - Lords 2.30pm
 - Debate on the National Health Service
 - Debate on family farms

Museum unveils a child-free gallery

CHILDREN ARE to be banned from one of the galleries of a £97m arts, science and nature centre, funded by the National Lottery, because they are too noisy.

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

a museum for the new millennium will be a cyber-café with sofas to attract female Internet users. Research found that women were deterred from using the Net because they disliked the business-style, bar-stool atmosphere of many Internet cafés, and wanted a room where they could be comfortable.

Ms Thomas said yesterday: "We will be doing a number of things differently. The trend now is towards a lot more single adults on their own and if you just focus on families with 2.4 children you're missing what's happening. There's a really good market for coach tours for pensioners and we have worked hard on the seating. A lot of places don't like you sitting down. But I think you can't focus on something when you're physically uncomfortable."

She added: "We asked adults what they most disliked about science centres. And they said 'noise and children'. So we have created this space where children are banned."

Above all, she emphasised, At-Bristol would encourage visitors to become involved rather than just look at objects. There would be a large number of hands-on exhibits, multi-media displays and scientific experiments in which visitors could participate.

The nature building will have a mixture of live animals and a new Imax cinema showing wildlife films.

Between the science building - called Explore - and the nature building - called Wildscreen - will be a new square as large as Parliament Square in London, with art and sculptures, aimed at becoming a city centre meeting place.

The new centre, Ms Thomas said, will be out to attract the "silver surfers", the jargon for older people becoming attracted to the Internet and computer technology. A further initiative to mark it out as



The area in front of the Tower that is to be landscaped, with the clutter and ticket booths (centre left) swept away

Brian Harris

Lottery grant of £6m for Tower

By KATE WATSON-SMYTH

THE TOWER of London, home of the Crown Jewels and one of the country's busiest tourist attractions, is to receive a lottery grant of nearly £6m.

The money will be used to improve the area around the site. Visitors currently have to walk through an ugly concrete underpass or cross a busy road lined with kiosks to reach the world heritage site.

But the £14.7m scheme - for which the rest of the funding is already in place - will involve laying paths to improve access for disabled people and pedestrianising the area to the front of the Tower to restore the views from Tower Hill towards the Thames. It will also include a new education centre and improved ticket arrangements.

The Heritage Lottery Fund announced yesterday that it had awarded an initial grant of £405,000 to pay for development of the plans and £5.5m when they are complete.

Bob Hill, the project director for the Tower of London, said he was "really pleased" about the grant. "For some years people have been bothered about the siting of the tower and the amount of detritus that is around the entrance to it, which is not appropriate for a world heritage site... the whole scheme will make a big difference to the way the Tower is perceived."

The work is scheduled to finish in 2002.

New controller defends Radio 3's diversity

By DAVID LISTER

RADIO 3 launched a counter-offensive yesterday to accusations that the BBC is dumbing down as it announced an increase in drama and live classical music.

Roger Wright, the new controller of Radio 3, spelt out his vision for the network, describing it as "the only place you can find such a diversity of top-quality cultural and music programmes".

With Radio 4 constantly ac-

cused of downgrading its drama output, Mr Wright announced a Radio 3 season of new plays by writers including Howard Barker and Wole Soyinka as well as a season of classics starring artists including Juliet Stevenson and Cheryl Campbell.

He confirmed that the percentage of speech and drama on the station was increasing.

And he announced an increase in the amount of live music, which already accounts for 50 per cent of Radio 3's output. Weekly live opera from the Met in New York will continue. For the first time Radio Three will broadcast Womad, the World Music and Dance Festival from Reading.

Mr Wright detailed changes to the morning schedule from August this year, which include two new strands. A new music

performance will run each weekday morning from 11.30am to 1pm, replacing *Artist of the Week and Sound Stories*. And a new five-minute speech programme scheduled for 10am each weekday morning will have artists such as the actress Fiona Shaw and the novelist AS Byatt talking about their current projects.

There will also be a classical music request programme on Saturday afternoons.

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Wright: Music and drama

KEN LIVINGSTONE



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IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW

PAGE 4

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Lottery grant of £6m for Tower

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

THE TOWER OF LONDON has been awarded a £6m grant from the National Lottery to improve the site and to help the museum to attract more visitors.

The grant will be used to improve the site and to help the museum to attract more visitors.

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Nasa takes off in search of stardust

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

AN AMBITIOUS attempt to capture the floating stardust of interstellar space will begin this weekend with the launch of the first spacecraft to bring back extraterrestrial material to Earth since the Apollo rockets of the early Seventies.

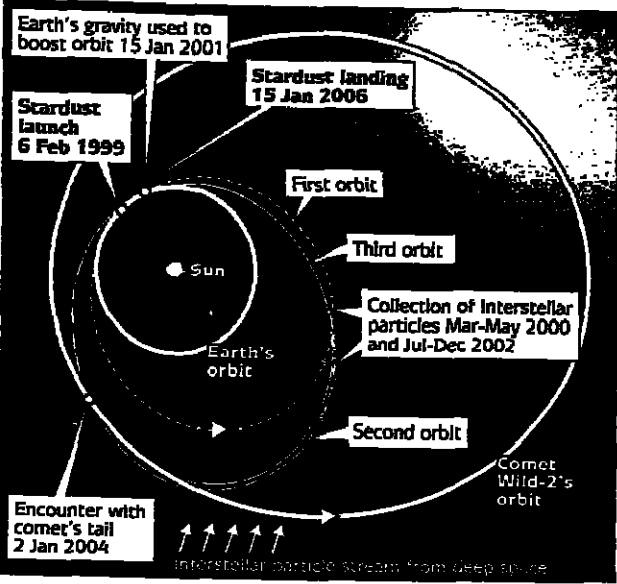
The Stardust spacecraft - named after the lyrics of "Woodstock" sung by Joni Mitchell - will chase a distant comet and capture the minute particles of material in its tail. It will also collect interstellar dust from deep space.

Scientists hope to study the interstellar particles and cometary dust when they are returned to Earth in seven years' time to learn more about the evolution of the solar system and how life began on Earth.

Stardust, an international mission led by the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), is scheduled for lift-off on Saturday and will make contact with comet Wild-2 (pronounced "Vilt-2") in January 2004.

The spacecraft will fly by the comet at a speed of 14,000mph and use an instrument shaped like a tennis racket and coated in aerogel, a material known as "frozen smoke" because it is the lightest man-made solid, to capture the delicate dust.

Tony McDowell, professor of space physics at the University of Kent at Canterbury, which has helped to build a set



of microphones to listen to the sound of the stardust being caught, said the dust has been preserved in a pristine state since the solar system was created about 4.7 billion years ago. "We've come from a similar cloud of interstellar dust and gas that condensed to form the planets. The cometary material may have brought the life-sustaining elements - the carbon and water-based chemicals - to Earth," he said.

Donald Brownlee, professor of astronomy at the University of Washington in Seattle, who devised the idea for the mission in 1980, said bringing stardust back to Earth for analysis could help to explain the evolution of life. "The building blocks of life

have long been thought to have come from further out in the solar system, out further away from the Sun, and these would be materials from asteroids and comets," he said.

"People have long suspected that comets play a role in the origin of life. No one really knows this because no one knows how life began."

"But we do know that comets are the most carbon-rich materials in the solar system, and we know they're full of organic compounds and they fall on the Earth all the time."

The cometary particles that are found on Earth have suffered too much damage during their journey through the atmosphere to be of much use in

learning about the state of matter at the beginning of time. Comet Wild-2 is perfect to search for the best-preserved material because it has rarely passed near to the Sun and so has not suffered the damaging effects of solar radiation, Professor Brownlee said.

"There hasn't been time enough for the Sun's heat to destroy the characteristics of particles that have been preserved in the cryogenic deep freeze of space for billions of years."

The stardust spacecraft will be the first mission since Apollo 17 in 1972 to return extraterrestrial samples from space, and the first to bring back material from beyond the Moon.

The stellar dust caught up in a comet's tail is the only known physical clue to the events that led to the formation of planets and the evolution of life, Professor Brownlee said. "You can at least look at what the starting materials were. So that's what Stardust is going to do."

Professor Brownlee said the lyrics of "Woodstock" - "We are stardust, we are golden, we are 2 billion-year-old carbon" - are apt for the mission.

"Many of the carbon atoms in our bodies were in comets early in the history of the solar system. So one of the bylines of the Stardust mission is that we are stardust. Our bodies are actually made of stardust," he said.

However, despite the affiliation to "Woodstock", Nasa plans to play Hoagy Carmichael's "Stardust" for the countdown.



A Nasa scientist shows how the Woodstock spacecraft will catch spacedust from the tail of a comet. Nasa

Life term for killing lover's wife

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

AN AMATEUR actress who killed her lover's wife in a jealous rage was yesterday sentenced to life in prison.

Jenny Cupit, 25, from Warrington, sobbed uncontrollably in the dock at Chester Crown Court as the judge told her she was a serial liar who would be behind bars for a long time.

Cupit had denied murdering Kathryn Linaker, 33, but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Yesterday, she changed her plea at the eleventh hour and admitted murdering the primary school teacher and mother of two on 17 April last year.

Mr Justice Sachs said: "What you did on that day was an absolute outrage. You killed that woman out of lust for her husband and jealousy for her."

He said he had listened to the mitigation and, "it's not that great... Nobody hearing the evidence in this case can fail to feel anything but revulsion."

During the five-day trial, the court heard how Mrs Linaker was bludgeoned and stabbed to death in front of her four-month-old daughter. She did not know her husband, Chris, was having an affair, but had warned him, a week before her death, that Cupit was interested in him and could be a threat to their marriage.

Cupit, a mother of two, and her husband, Nick, met the Linakers at the Warrington-based Centenary Operatic and Dramatic Society. The affair between Cupit and Mr Linaker, 35, began in January 1997. They met at least once a week for sex and talked regularly by phone. Their affair continued for 16 months.

Mr Linaker wrote one letter to Cupit, who was pleading to



Cupit: 'Serial liar who killed out of jealousy'

elope to Canada, saying: "We have shared almost every sexual experience together and I can't imagine life without you."

But Cupit knew that Mr Linaker still loved his wife. She visited the Linakers' home armed with a small knife and plunged the knife into Mrs Linaker's back with such force that the blade snapped. She then stabbed her in the stomach with a larger knife taken from a kitchen drawer.

First she told police of a "mystery skinhead" who forced his way into the house and attacked Mrs Linaker. When she was arrested, she gave a dramatic account of how she had killed Mrs Linaker after the affair was discovered, and claimed that Mrs Linaker had attacked her because she was jealous of her popularity. Her claims were never believed.

Mr Linaker left the court with his head down yesterday and refused to comment. During the trial he sat grim faced at the back of the public gallery as Adrian Fulford, QC, defending, said Cupit was mentally unstable and Mr Linaker had to take responsibility for what had happened.

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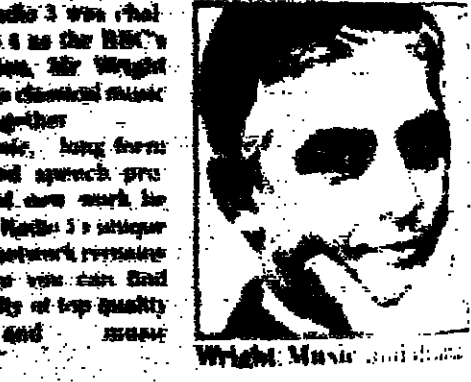
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Schroder says 'we moved too fast'



Chancellor Schröder showing his versatility before a Christmas audience in Bonn

Juergen Schwarz

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

CHANCELLOR GERHARD Schröder marked his first 100 days of power by admitting that his government had made mistakes. "We overlooked the fact that you don't have to implement all the election promises you made for the whole legislature in the first 100 days," the German leader said yesterday at the Davos world economic summit. "When you move at the pace we did, human error is bound to creep in."

Few governments had promised so little, yet delivered so much entertainment as Germany's new administration. Gerhard Schröder had entered office pledging to do things not very different from his predecessors, only better. As his period of grace expires today, the commentators, even those naturally inclined towards the left, feel let down. The word finding its way most frequently onto newspapers is "chaos".

Presaged by the resignation of a minister-in-waiting, Mr Schröder's cabinet has been

100 DAYS IN POWER

THE HIGHS
Immigration: Millions of foreign residents will be naturalised with reform of the racially based citizenship law of 1913. Due to be enacted this summer.

The past: Fund to be established this year to compensate slave workers of the Nazi period. Compromise over design of Berlin's Holocaust Memorial ends a decade of dithering.

Nuclear power: Legislation to phase out nuclear power over several decades. First plants expected to close within the lifetime of the current parliament.

Europe: Currently holding

the EU presidency, the government has set a hectic pace for reform. It wants to settle finances, including its own rebate, by March.

...AND LOWS

Taxes: No sign of a plan to deal with the simple problem that German workers cost too much.

Jobs: Planned pact between employers and employees seems Utopian. Nothing concrete achieved at first meeting.

Diplomacy: Several ministers fail to understand that Bismarckian methods of conducting dialogue with neighbours no longer work.

lurching from one crisis to the next ever since. As they celebrate their first 100 days in office, most of the new team will readily admit that things can only improve.

The Greens have just had a "crash-course in government", admitted their parliamentary

leader, Rezzo Schlauch. Considering his party had never before been in power at the federal level, they had not done too badly, he added.

The Social Democrats, too, are pleading for extenuating circumstances. They had become rusty in their 16 years in the wilderness, and underestimated the difficulty of running a country, they say.

Even before the cabinet could be assembled, Mr Schröder had lost Jost Stollmann, the independent-minded businessman who was to have occupied the chair at the Economic Ministry. Mr Stollmann had fallen victim to the machinations of Oskar Lafontaine, now Finance Minister.

Then came the "environmental tax", a Green hobbyhorse that was to free funds for job creation while saving the planet. But Mr Lafontaine found himself having to dole out exemptions to smoke-stack industries, thus provoking the Greens. The

government is still haggling over the details.

When not adding and removing tax burdens, Mr Lafontaine was trying to "harmonise" taxes in the European Union, dictating interest rates to the banks, and constructing a new architecture to deter international financial speculators. None of his plans has come to anything, but his notoriety in the rest of Europe is assured.

Mr Lafontaine was eventually reined in. These days he is kept busy by the economic realities of a falling growth rate, unemployment again on the rise, and his chums in the unions staging nationwide strikes in support of a 6.5 per cent wage claim.

The chief mischief-makers of the moment are the Greens, particularly the Environment Minister, Jürgen Trittin. It is on nuclear policy that the government has been most shambolic, toying and froing on the ban on reprocessing and the closure of plants.

There is no final date for either, to Mr Schröder's great delight and to the Greens' evident pain. But the negotiations with the power industry have begun, at the end of which Germany will begin phasing out nuclear energy. In years to come, that will be seen by the left as a great achievement, and the rows between reds and greens along the way will appear to have been trifling.

Many of the policies the reds and greens have launched together are promising. Despite the endless fiascos, the voters seem to be in a forgiving mood. After an initial slump, poll ratings are up, and Mr Schröder, blessed by a feeble opposition, has a commanding lead in the popularity stakes.

On balance, the first 100 days could have been worse.

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Hamas killing stirs tensions

RELATIVES OF A Palestinian intelligence officer, shot dead by fugitive Hamas gunmen in the Gaza Strip on Monday, demanded the death penalty yesterday for his three suspected killers. The family refused to receive traditional condolence visits until justice was done.

The killing rekindled tensions between Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Islamic opponents of peace with Israel, which were provoked by last October's Wye Agreement. Mr Arafat, who is in Washington this week urging President Bill Clinton to make Israel complete its promised West Bank withdrawal, is eager to show he is cracking down on the men of violence.

Captain Rafat Jouda, their latest victim, noticed the wanted men in the Sinai border town of Rafah and gave chase. A police spokesman said the captain opened fire when they refused to stop. The three shot back, fatally wounding him and an eight-year-old girl.

They were captured later in the Shati refugee camp. The men were identified as Ra'ed el Attar, Osama Abu Taha and Mohammed Abu Shamala. They appeared on a list of alleged killers presented by Israel to the PA during the Wye negotiations. They are accused of belonging to Hamas's military wing, Ezzedin al-Qassam.

Palestinian police later arrested dozens of Hamas protesters who stoned a police station. At the same time, the Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, launched a hunger

BY ERIC SILVER
in Jerusalem



Yassin: On hunger strike

strike in sympathy with Hamas activists held without trial.

Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has frozen the Wye accords until after the election. He launched his re-election campaign this week under the slogan "A strong leader for a strong people". The three-month deadline for completing the current West Bank redeployment expired at the weekend with Israel still holding 11 of the 13 per cent of land it was due to hand over.

Mr Netanyahu justified the delay by accusing Mr Arafat of freeing 21 prisoners serving sentences for murdering Israelis and Americans.

Yediot Aharonot, Israel's biggest-selling daily newspaper, challenged Mr Netanyahu's contention that the PA is operating a "revolving door".

It said 197 Hamas activists had been arrested since October and were still being held in Palestinian prisons.

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Serbs play politics as relatives wait to bury massacre victims

BY RAYMOND WHITAKER
in Pristina

ALL THE way to the Kosovo capital, Bedrije cried in our car. She was following the same route as her brother, Muhamet Ismajli Sylja, who died with seven other members of their family in the Racak massacre on 15 January. His body and those of 39 others were seized two days later by Serbian security forces and taken to the morgue at Pristina hospital, 18 miles away. Now she was going to bring his remains home - or so she thought.

Bedrije herself had not been to Pristina for seven months. Kosovo's ethnic Albanians are fearful of making such journeys, during which it is quite possible to vanish. The relatives of the 45 victims of Racak have lived, since the massacre, in near-complete uncertainty.

"We just want an official statement from someone, but we've heard nothing," said another member of her family.

But the local branch of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), the main Albanian party, had announced that the relatives of the dead should assemble yesterday morning in Stimlje, the main town in the district, and go up to Pristina in convoy to collect the bodies. It had been on the TV news from Albania: everything must have been arranged.

"We want to bury them all together in a special place, and name it the graveyard of heroes," said Bedrije as the convoy, accompanied by carloads of international media, arrived at the morgue. The relatives stood outside in the snow - grizzled farmers in traditional white Albanian hats, old women in white headscarves of mourning - waiting for someone to tell them what to do next.

Shaban Halimi, a party official from Stimlje, borrowed a reporter's mobile phone. After a while trucks arrived to carry the bodies home, but it began to dawn on everyone that nothing had been arranged. The LDK was evidently hoping that the presence of the families and swarms of television cameras would force the Serbian au-



Relatives of the dead killed in the massacre at Racak wait outside the hospital morgue in Pristina for permission to take the bodies for burial

David Rose

thorities to give up the bodies, but the doors of the morgue remained closed.

Rumours ran through the gathering as the wait dragged on. "If they won't release all the bodies, I say we shouldn't take any of them," shouted an old man, responding to one such story. Others were thinking of their homes in Racak, which has remained deserted since

the massacre. "Some people say there are Serbian policemen living there now," said a villager. "We haven't been there for more than two weeks - who knows what is going on?"

The LDK's tactics worked to the extent that Michael Petersen, a human rights official of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is monitoring

the ceasefire shattered by the Racak massacre, arrived on the scene. He and two representatives of the families went into the morgue to negotiate with Serbian officials, but hope was ebbing among the families, despite the efforts of Bedrije, who was urging everyone to stay "until we get the bodies back".

Her anger grew when Mr Petersen emerged. "We want to

make sure that the funeral is carried out in a dignified manner," he said, "and we have agreed that with the help of the OSCE, the relatives and Serbian and Albanian authorities, it will be organised to everyone's satisfaction." He would be having further meetings with Serbian officials, but word was that it would be another two or three days before the dead of

Racak could be laid to rest. "This makes me think that Europe is intimidated by Serbia," said Bedrije. "Europe should be ashamed that women have to come here and be treated like this, waiting five hours in the cold." The general mood, however, was one of resignation and she climbed reluctantly into a car to go home.

But then, in an apparent re-

versal, the Serbian judge Denica Marinkovic said the families could take the bodies.

There was to be more haggling ahead. When the families returned to Pristina they insisted the OSCE organised the hand-over of the bodies and the burial because they feared Serb harassment. "We are afraid," said Hafiz Mustafa, one of the relatives.

Yeltsin returns to face a feud

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

A FRAGILE Boris Yeltsin made an unexpected visit to his Kremlin office yesterday - his first this year - only to be faced with two new headaches: the loss of his loyal Prosecutor General, and a feud between his prime minister and a prominent tycoon.

The return of Mr Yeltsin, who has been out of view in hospital for two weeks with a bleeding ulcer, was signalled by the Kremlin which released TV pictures showing the president raising a champagne toast to mark his 68th birthday on Monday, alongside the Russian Patriarch, Alexei II, his premier, Yevgeny Primakov, and chief of staff.

Although the group were smiling, Mr Yeltsin's grin may not have been as warmly felt as it looked. His relationship with Mr Primakov has been under strain after a failed effort by the premier - who is now Russia's day-to-day leader - to introduce a deal with parliament that would restrict the Kremlin's powers.

At the same time, political warfare has broken out between Mr Primakov and Boris Berezovsky, a media magnate and former Kremlin confidant whose fortunes have been on the wane since the economic crash in August.

Mr Berezovsky, who is also executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, has made no secret of his dislike of the premier, whom he has accused of polarising the political establishment and heading a "pro-Communist" administration.

The premier has responded by suggesting that a man in his political position should refrain from criticising Russia's leadership.

The oligarch has found himself the target of a "kompromat" campaign, with compromising material published in the press, which alleged he set up a private KGB-style outfit to spy on the Kremlin, including Mr Yeltsin's influential daughter, Tatyana.



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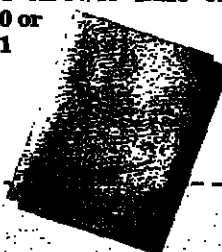
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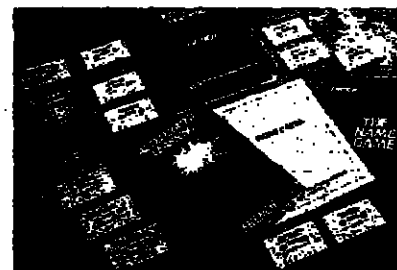
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BRIEFING

Eureko ponders cash bid for GRE

THE BOARD of Eureko, the consortium of nine European insurers, meets today to consider a cash bid for Guardian Royal Exchange to trump the agreed £3.25bn cash-and-paper offer from AXA, the French insurance giant. Eureko executives are examining a full cash alternative to top AXA's offer of 249p cash plus 0.243 shares in Sun Life & Provincial, its majority-owned UK subsidiary. Because of a sharp slide this week in Sun Life's share price, AXA's offer has fallen from 389p to 375p a share. It is understood Eureko may offer substantial equity stakes to GRE's management in an effort to persuade them to stay on. Shares in GRE closed down 2p at 359p.

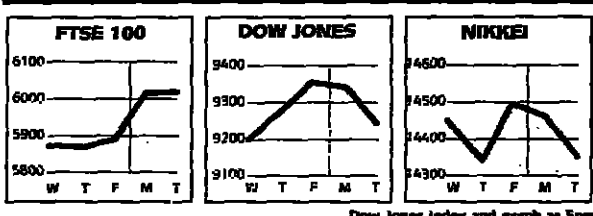
BICC leaps on bid speculation

SHARES IN BICC, the troubled cables group, leapt by 16 pence yesterday on growing speculation that the acquisitive mini-conglomerate Wassall was preparing a bid. Wassall, which has a 9.3 per cent stake in BICC, fuelled the rumours after refusing to rule out a takeover approach in the future. In a statement released yesterday, Wassall said it was "monitoring" its investment in BICC, adding that this "may or may not lead to an offer".

Ofcom ranks best mobile networks

OFTEL, the telecoms watchdog, yesterday published the results of a survey into the efficiency of mobile phone networks in an attempt to force mobile phone operators to agree common performance standards. The survey showed that Orange was the most reliable network with a call success rate of 95 per cent, while Vodafone and Cellnet registered just above 90 per cent and One-2-Net just below 90 per cent. Cellnet challenged the results of the survey, arguing that data should have been collected over a longer period.

STOCK MARKETS



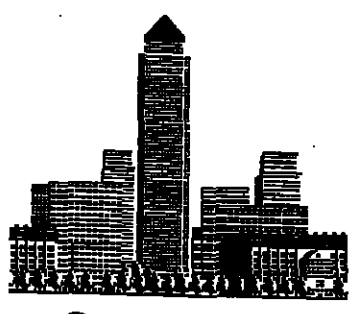
The importance of being a realist, Ernest

OVER THE years Sir Ernest Harrison has proved himself much better at selling businesses than running them. His crowning glory remains Vodafone. When the cellular telephone business was spun off from the Rascal group in 1991 it was worth £3.2bn. Today it is valued at £37bn, even before Vodafone doubles in size by swallowing up Airtouch.

Now that he is reaching the twilight of his career Sir Ernest, 72, is keen to pull off one last deal that the City can remember him by and shareholders can thank him for. The disposal of Rascal Telecom, however, is proving more of a problem than Sir Ernest bargained for.

It is now more than a year since Rascal announced its intention to float the business after plans for a trade sale failed to attract any offers above £450m. Since then the Rascal share price has powered ahead in the hope that Sir Ernest can reproduce some of his old magic.

But not much else has happened. Rascal Telecom is still short of a chief executive and its trading performance remains pedestrian. Although the company still talks optimistically about a flotation this year, the timing could easily slip into the new millennium.



OUTLOOK

Now, however, there is a serious bidder back at the table. Dick Callahan, the former president of US West, has offered to pay Sir Ernest £700m to take Rascal Telecom off his hands. Mr Callahan's financial backers are impressive - his bid is being funded by Bank of America and GE Capital. Furthermore, Callahan Associates, the vehicle for the bid, has offered Sir Ernest a deal whereby he can retain up to half the business and thereby share in the upside once it is under more dynamic management.

Sir Ernest, however, has rejected the offer. He has one eye on the track record of Vodafone and the other on the stratospheric share

price performance of Energis. On that basis, he reckons he can get more for the business.

There are some important similarities between Energis and Rascal Telecom. While the Energis network is strung along the National Grid's electricity pylons, Rascal Telecom got into business by snapping up British Rail Telecom, whose network is strung along the rail network.

But there are also some important differences. The sky-high rating of Energis owes much to its growth record. Under Mike Grabner, it is expanding at a rate of 75 per cent while lucrative data traffic is doubling each year. In contrast, Rascal Telecom's margins are falling and its growth rate is a sluggish 5 per cent. Moreover, many of the juicy contracts with train operators and Railtrack that were used to fatten up British Rail Telecom for privatisation are coming up for renewal.

Sir Ernest is spending this week with the institutions explaining why his strategy for floating the business remains the best course. It will not be an easy task. There is now a £700m bid on the table and the chance for shareholders to gain from any upside in Rascal Telecom.

Furthermore, a trade sale of the telecoms arm could be the catalyst for the complete break-up of the group and the sale of the defence electronics business to BAE-Marconi or one of several European suitors. Sir Ernest has defied the odds before. But on this occasion, investors need to ask him some hard questions.

CBI Budget

THERE WAS always a slight air of unreality about the love-in between business and the Labour Government. Yesterday's Budget submission by the CBI marks a return to normality. Not yet in anger, but rather in sadness, the bosses' organisation has told the Government that its proposals spell too much costly red tape for business.

The problem is not the actual burden of taxation on companies, nor even the windfall tax, but rather the requirement that companies implement some key measures of government policy. These include the national minimum wage, the working time directive and the working families tax credit. These are an administrative headache for big employers, and a bit of a

nightmare for small companies. While the Government has made much of its plans to encourage small businesses, with the Pre-Budget Report and the Competitiveness White Paper emphasising entrepreneurship, Gordon Brown will have to deliver the goods next month just to offset the adverse impact of these other measures. They fall most heavily on the tiniest firms.

Recent research at Bath University has shown that simply collecting national insurance and income tax contributions through PAYE costs businesses employing 1-4 people £279 a year, whereas the cashflow each quarter means big companies benefit to the tune of £11 an employee. The WFTC could actually end up requiring small employers to pay cash up-front to low-paid staff before they can claim it from the Inland Revenue.

Given that the Government buried the reports of two taskforces on small business - one on finance for high-tech companies and one on smaller quoted companies - by publishing their papers on the same day as the Pre-Budget Report, it is easy to see why the business organisations have become sceptical about how much genuine help the Gov-

ernment really has in store for the Budget.

They may be pleasantly surprised for the Chancellor is sincere in his desire to stimulate enterprise and wealth-creation for the long-term benefit of the economy. Even so, a bit of tension in business-Government relations is a healthy sign of normality. It will keep both sides on their toes.

Maxwell ruling

THE ACCOUNTANTS' Joint Disciplinary Tribunal has clearly been taking prose lessons from some of the newspapers once owned by the late Robert Maxwell. Phrases like "The firm lost the plot" do not fall easily from the lips in such a dry profession. And yet that is exactly what Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte did when it came to the auditing of the Maxwell empire. Judgements do not come much more damning than that of the JDS - in particular its conclusion that Coopers left its objectivity and scepticism outside the door when it entered the Maxwell lair.

It would be nice to think that auditors, like law firms, are nothing if not objective when dealing with

clients. Sadly, the lure of fat fees makes it all too easy for them to become part of the process rather than a natural check on corporate excess.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers is standing by the four senior partners singled out by the JDS on the grounds that they were "victims of deliberate deceit" as if this were something auditors should not be on the lookout for.

PwC has already salvaged its conscience by helping bail out the pension funds plundered by Maxwell while the £3.5m in fees and costs levied by the JDS, though a record sum, represents a mere flea bite for the world's biggest accountancy firm.

More serious is the damages claim that PwC's 8,500 partners face from the receivers of the Maxwell empire. But it will be a miracle if this ever reaches court and even then, the big five accountancy firms have a mutual insurance policy to deal with embarrassments like this.

The acid test is whether the JDS's admonition prevents another Maxwell scandal. A more effective sanction would have been to make an example of those partners involved.

Prescott urged to tear up rail map

News Analysis: A crisis summit may offer new passenger franchises as part of the Government's bid to get better value for taxpayers

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

THERE IS a joke doing the rounds of the railway industry. Why is John Prescott holding a railway summit? Answer: because he wants to tear up the map.

It's not that funny, and the listed companies that now make up the industry probably aren't laughing.

The summit on 25 February will be a crucial step in the Deputy Prime Minister's bid to get a grip on an industry that is failing the travelling public and the taxpayer.

The new railway bosses - Railtrack, National Express, Stagecoach, First Group, Go-Ahead, Connex, Prism and Virgin - will be hanging on Mr Prescott's every word for clues on how to proceed.

He has given some signposts. The Conservative ideology of best value for money will be replaced with a new formula that includes passenger benefits. The regulators will be replaced by a Strategic Rail Authority (SRA). Its chairman and chief executive - the new Fat Controller, if you like - will be announced soon. Ministers will then outline how the complex system of passenger rail franchises - some up for renewal in 2003 - will be reformed.

Mr Prescott has a strong political imperative - official figures show a marked slump in punctuality and reliability and the latest figures, published next week, are likely to show performance has not improved.

The industry faces a test as subsidy is set to fall from £1.79bn in the first full year of privatisation to £655m in 2003/04.

Stephen Joseph of Transport 000, the environmental pres-

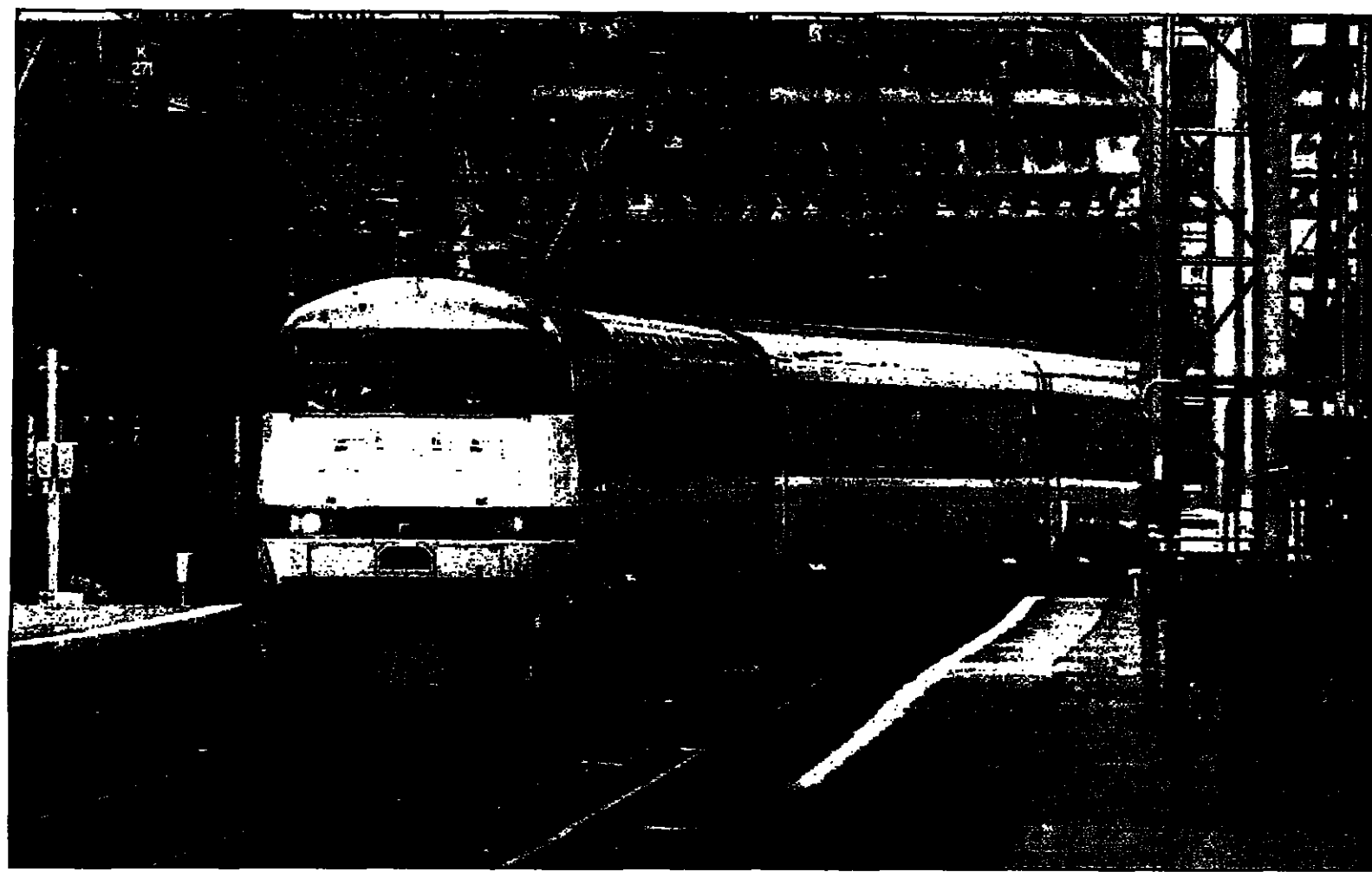
sure group, says one of the greatest concerns is the state of rural railways. There have been rumours about the financial state of franchises such as Wales & West, North West Trains and Northern Spirit.

Mr Joseph said there was a growing realisation these franchises had not been given enough subsidy to run rural networks with less growth potential than commuter operations. NWT's subsidy falls from £100.4m in 1997/98 to £69m in 2003/04. Wales & West from £73.5m to £40.5m and Northern Spirit from £141.7m to £33.7m.

Other franchises still receiving public money have managed to achieve substantial growth in passenger numbers. LTS Rail carries 11.5 per cent more than a year ago and received £27.7m in subsidy. Chiltern Railways grew by 8.7 per cent with a £14.4m subsidy and GNER, which received £55.1m, has grown 18 per cent since privatisation.

Mr Joseph said options include: ■ Relucting some franchises with less subsidy from, or greater payments to, the Treasury in exchange for a redistribution to weaker networks; ■ As above, but the benefits boosted by creating super-franchises that would provide massive cost-cutting opportunities and therefore greater profit; ■ Amalgamating overlapping commercial and social rail franchises.

He said the SRA needed to decide whether it was sensible to have two franchises operating on the same territory, as Great Western and Wales & West do. "When the rail franchises were set up it was drawn in 25 bits. Are these the right 25



New figures for rail, due next week, are likely to show that reliability and punctuality have shown little improvement

The Government is ready to think the unthinkable. In a remarkably honest statement in December last month, Glenda Jackson, the junior transport minister, said she could not rule out replacing trains with an "infinitely better, faster, more modern, more accessible coach service".

So far only one rail group, Prism, has taken the bait. It runs two franchises that have surpassed expectations, LTS and WAGN, and two rural networks, Wales & West and Cardiff Valleys, which must cope with declining subsidies.

Chief executive Giles Peartley said: "The SRA has some big issues to address in terms of how it wants to achieve value for money for the taxpayer. When it comes to franchise renewal in five or six years' time, all the subsidy will go to six rural businesses."

"It is a fact that the subsidy for a passenger on some rural branch lines is very significant indeed for what is, in effect, a service that could be provided with a more frequent and reliable bus service at a fraction of the cost."

He said the SRA needed to decide whether it was sensible to have two franchises operating on the same territory, as Great Western and Wales & West do. "When the rail franchises were set up it was drawn in 25 bits. Are these the right 25

or could they be drawn in a more effective way?"

Another senior industry figure agreed, saying Wales & West - minus its north-west routes - could be merged with Great Western and Cardiff Valleys. The same exercise could

be done with Great Eastern, West Anglia, Great Northern and Anglian. A merger of South West Trains, South Central and South Eastern would create a powerhouse of a railway.

Further north things are less clear. The sprawling empires of

Central Trains, North Western Trains, Scotrail and Northern Spirit could be broken up to create commuter hubs around Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow/Edinburgh and Leeds/Bradford. The longer services could be handed to other fran-

| THE FALLING PUBLIC RAIL SUBSIDY | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| How long before the franchises are renewed, yrs | 1997-98 | Last year of franchise, £m | Total franchise support | |
| Anglia Railways 1/1/97 | 36.2 | 6.5 | 140.1 | |
| Cardiff Railway Company 13/10/98 | 20.7 | 14.1 | 128.1 | |
| Central Trains 2/1/97 | 173.4 | 120.8 | 1617.0 | |
| Chiltern Railways 2/7/98 | 14.4 | 0.5 | 64.8 | |
| Connex South Central 2/1/97 | 76.1 | 5.4 | 383.8 | |
| Connex South Eastern 13/10/98 | 114.7 | 11.6 | 559.4 | |
| CrossCountry 3/1/97 | 115.9 | (10.6) | 606.2 | |
| East Anglia 2/1/97 | (6.2) | (2.0) | (214.5) | |
| Great Eastern Railway 2/1/97 | 28.7 | (10.0) | 44.4 | |
| Great North Eastern Railway 2/1/97 | 55.1 | 0.1 | 179.5 | |
| Island Line 1/1/97 | 58.9 | (2.8) | 365.7 | |
| LTS Rail 1/1/97 | 2.0 | 1.01 | 9.6 | |
| Mersinvalley 1/1/97 | 27.7 | 1.9 | 290.9 | |
| Midland Mainline 2/1/97 | 66.0 | 47.5 | 383.8 | |
| Norfolk 1/1/97 | 8.2 | (0.8) | (6.3) | |
| Northern Spirit 1/1/97 | 184.0 | 126.8 | 1060.3 | |
| ScotRail 1/1/97 | 219.2 | 143.7 | 1213.1 | |
| South West Trains 1/1/97 | 246.4 | 165.8 | 1414.3 | |
| South West Wales 1/1/97 | 49.4 | 16.3 | 226.4 | |
| Thames Valley 1/1/97 | 62.6 | 37.0 | 391.5 | |
| Thameslink 1/1/97 | 2.5 | (29.4) | (125.5) | |
| Thameslink Rail 1/1/97 | 33.5 | 4.0 | 121.3 | |
| Wales & West 1/1/97 | 73.5 | 41.0 | 423.8 | |
| West Anglia Great Northern 1/1/97 | 54.6 | (26.3) | 107.3 | |
| West Coast 1/1/97 | 76.6 | (227.8) | (969.5) | |

chises or set up as heavily subsidised public service railways.

A spokeswoman for National Express, which runs Scotrail, Central, Midland Mainline, Silverlink and Gatwick Express, said there were dangers in recreating the old BR regional structure. "Making franchises work has to be the remit now. It's all about performance, performance, performance."

First Group said the industry was keeping an open mind. "I think John Prescott is looking for ideas as to how franchises could be restructured."

For successful franchises the question is how to resolve under-investment. Both GNER, which runs the East Coast main line between London and Edinburgh, and Thameslink from Bedford to Brighton, have increased passenger numbers. But both are restricted by a lack of train paths and rolling stock shortages.

GNER wants to convert its seven-year contract to a 15-year franchise in exchange for buying up to 10 new tilting trains and building three new stations. Go-Ahead, owner of Thameslink, wants a new deal to take account of the work to create the expanded Thameslink 2000 network by 2006.

Commercial director Chris Moyes said: "We hope the Government will recognise there's a hell of a lot of work being done that would result in a much better railway. But Rome was not built in a day."

Budget should cut red tape, says CBI

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

THE CHANCELLOR must use his Budget on 9 March to cut back the increasing burden of regulation on business, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

Its Budget submission to Gordon Brown said recent legislation such as the introduction of the minimum wage and the working time directive had cost businesses £5bn a year.

Sir Clive Thompson, CBI president, said: "This Budget comes at a critical point in the economic cycle with the UK facing a major slowdown in growth."

He added: "Many in the business community urgently need a confidence boost with a clear declaration of no increases in business taxation. We want changes aimed at reducing bureaucratic burdens."

The Trades Union Congress, in its Budget submission tomorrow, is expected to focus instead on the need for extra public spending to boost flagging areas of the economy, and for lower interest rates.

Its call will come as the Bank of England's monetary policy committee ends its monthly interest rate meeting. Most City pundits expect a further quarter point reduction to 5.75 per cent.

The British Chambers of Commerce backed the CBI's attack on red tape yesterday. Ian Peters, deputy director general of the BCC, said: "Genuine efforts must be made in the forthcoming Budget to reduce dramatically the amount of regulation."

In its submission, the CBI called on the Government to avoid introducing any big new initiatives. Its plea follows on the heels of recent changes in corporate taxation and the planned introduction of measures such as the minimum wage and working families tax credit that employers will have to implement.

Like the BCC earlier in the week, the CBI also urged the Chancellor to introduce a number of measures to encourage enterprise and innovation. It proposes a full one-year tax break for investment spending by small and medium sized companies.

Other measures on the CBI's entrepreneurship shopping list include tax credits for research and development spending by smaller firms, a reform of capital gains tax to encourage "serial entrepreneurs", and a higher ceiling on the amount of share options employees can be granted free of income tax.

Some proposals for stimulating high-technology start-ups were flagged in the pre-Budget report, but the employers' organisation would like to see more help for all small firms.

Kate Barker, the CBI's chief economist, said: "A lot of good ideas have been put forward. What is vital is that they are acted on in this Budget."

Reckitt chief gets £900,000 payoff

ERIK SANKEY has stepped down as chief executive of Reckitt & Colman, the Dettol and Harpic household products group, less than three months after the company issued a stock price warning.

Mr Sankey, who has been chief executive for seven years, will depart with immediate effect. He will be paid more than £900,000 in compensation for loss of office, while his share options are worth an additional £100,000. The group's shares

rose 50.5p to 870p on the news. Michael Turrel, operations director, has been named as acting chief executive until a full-time successor can be found.

Analysts said the departure could leave the group vulnerable to a takeover, with Unilever, Colgate-Palmolive, and Procter & Gamble leading the field of potential bidders.

"Without a chief executive

you become vulnerable to an approach," said Peter Cartwright at Williams de Broe.

Reckitt & Colman denied that Mr Sankey had left as a result of last November's profits warning, which was blamed on poor trading in Far East markets and de-stocking in America.

But it admitted that the warning had "resulted in the board sitting down and deciding where it wanted to go," a spokesman said. "The directors decided a

different approach was needed."

Mr Sankey was responsible for a major re-structuring of Reckitt & Colman. He acquired the L&F household products division from Eastman Kodak in 1995 in a deal that included Lysol, the top brand cleaner and disinfectant. In turn he sold Colmans mustard and increasingly focused on emerging markets.

Alan Dalby, chairman, said Mr Sankey had been vital to the company's growth.

PFI schemes may be pooled

THE GOVERNMENT is considering plans to pool together different projects under the private finance initiative (PFI) in an effort to speed up the development of smaller schemes.

Under the plans, local authorities will be urged to group together projects below £20m in order to make them more attractive to private investors.

In a radical departure from past PFI schemes, local councils will also be allowed to put together schemes from differ-

ent sectors such as hospitals, schools and roads, offering contractors the chance to bid for regeneration work in an entire area.

At present a number of small infrastructure schemes under the PFI - the Government programme to foster private-public investment - are shunned by the private sector because their small size does not justify the high cost of bid-

ding for a PFI contract. The chief secretary to the Treasury Alan Milburn yesterday said that smaller PFI projects needed "greater strategic planning".

In his first public pronouncement since taking over the PFI brief from the disgraced Geoffrey Robinson, Mr Milburn said: "We have hundreds of potential deals but they are pretty small scale, between £5m and £20m, and we need to make them more attractive."

Pharmac bo

Shanks sold to US buyer for £235m

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Tarmac bows to City pressure and demerges

TARMAC, one of Britain's largest contractors, yesterday bowed to City pressure and announced plans to split its building materials and construction operations into two separate companies.

Sir Neville Simms, the Tarmac chief executive, said the break-up of the 96-year-old group would help to develop the two businesses and revive the

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

company's flagging share price. Tarmac stock has underperformed most of its rivals because the low-margin construction business dampened the prospects of the highly-profitable building materials operations.

"Having two different businesses in the same group is con-

fusing. They were just not valued satisfactorily," Sir Neville said. The shares closed up 4.25p at 117p yesterday, as the market speculated that the building materials part of the group could be targeted by Tarmac's arch-rival Aggregate Industries.

Talks over a £1.8bn merger between the two companies collapsed at the end of last year after a bitter row over the man-

agement structure of the group. Aggregate Industries (AI) was not available for comment yesterday, but Sir Neville said that a takeover was "impossible" because Tarmac building materials was bigger than AI. Under yesterday's plans, Tarmac would split its two main divisions into two separately quoted groups in the second half of the year, through a distribu-

tion of shares to existing investors.

The building materials group, which last year had sales of £1.2bn and profits of £142m, will be the larger of the two. City analysts said the company was expected to have a market value of around £880m - 80 per cent of the group's existing capitalisation.

Tarmac building materials

has 10,000 employees and is one of the leading players in the UK market and also has a substantial operation in the US and Central Europe.

The construction and civil engineering group, which posted a £29m profit on turnover of £1.6bn, would be valued at around £220m.

The unit, which has 15,000 employees, has moved away

from traditional contracting to focus on higher-margin work such as privately financed projects.

Sir Neville said the demerger was not expected to create job losses among the group's 23,000 employees.

The company said that the management structure of the two groups had not been decided.

Tay in row over changing directors' contracts

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

TAY HOUSES, the troubled householder, was plunged into a furious row yesterday after it emerged that two top executives signed new contracts doubling their notice period after refusing an attempt by a rebel investor to change the board.

The Leeds-based company - which is facing a shareholder vote to oust the board at the end of the month - angrily denied suggestions that the chairman Norman Stubbs and the chief executive John Swanson had decided to increase the notice period for fear of being forced out by shareholders.

The length of the period is a crucial element in determining compensation packages for ousted directors. Outgoing executives normally receive a lump sum based on their annual salary multiplied by their notice period.

According to documents seen by the Independent, Mr Swanson and Mr Norman Stubbs signed the contracts extending their notice from six months to a year on 10 November.

This was around two weeks after a meeting with Sunley, a family-owned householder with a 10 per cent stake in Tay. At the meeting, Sunley proposed the appointment of two of its nominees to the board in an attempt to improve Tay's performance and revive its flagging share price.

The board's rejection of the proposal led Sunley, backed by Phillips & Drew, Tay's largest investor, to call the meeting to oust the existing management.

Mr Swanson yesterday said the changes to the notice period had been agreed in June by the company's remuneration committee. He said the contracts were not signed until November because lawyers had taken a long time to draw them up.

"The insinuation that we changed the contracts as a result of our meeting (with Sunley) is tantamount to absolute nonsense," he said.

Shanks sold to US buyer for £235m

ONE OF BRITAIN'S oldest and best known bathroom equipment manufacturers changed hands yesterday when Blue Circle Industries sold Armitage Shanks for £235m.

The buyer is American Standard, the US group whose brands include Ideal Standard, Trevi showers and the Sottini range of upmarket bath products.

The deal creates a combined group with sales of more than £200m and 3,300 workers employed at 15 UK sites.

However, it could be the subject of a competition inquiry as the combined group will control 35 per cent of the ceramic bathroom products markets, such as basins and toilets, a share well ahead of rivals such as Twyford-Doulton, owned by Caradon and Shires. The group will also have 18 per cent of the acrylic bath market.

Ideal Standard said it was confident there would not be any regulatory problems as the new group's share of the wider European market would be relatively small and imports into the UK account for 25 per cent of the domestic market. The American company said

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

the two manufacturers were a good fit. Ideal Standard, which is the world leader, is strong in the domestic bathroom sector. Armitage Shanks, the UK market leader, is strong in the commercial sector with a customer base that includes hospitals, hotels and prisons.

Roger Cooper, managing director of Ideal Standard in the UK, said: "We are now number one in every sector of the bathroom market here, and the two businesses fit very well. There will be a review of synergies and best practices before any other decisions are made."

The company would not comment on possible job losses or plant closures. However, Ideal Standard's factories achieve higher productivity. They generate sales of £85m from 1,100 staff at three sites. Armitage Shanks sales are £120m from 2,200 staff at 12 sites including five in Staffordshire.

The deal follows an intense auction process after Blue Circle put Armitage Shanks up for sale in October. The company will use the proceeds to en-



Roger Cooper, Ideal Standard's UK managing director: The new company will be the UK market leader in ceramic bathroom products

hance its core operations in building products, such as cement, and in heating equipment, including Potterton boilers and Myson heaters.

Armitage Shanks was founded in 1817 in Armitage in Staffordshire as a maker of earthenware products including pots and pipes. In the 1890s it was acquired by the Reverend Edward Johns.

Blue Circle bought the com-

pany in 1980. In the year to December 1997 the group recorded profits of £24.5m on sales of £174m.

The deal will be one of the last corporate acts of Blue Circle's chief executive Keith Orrell-Jones, who steps down in July. He will leave a cash pile for his successor, Richard Haythornthwaite.

Blue Circle shares closed 20.25p higher at 337.75p.

COMPANY RESULTS

| Name | Turnover (£) | Pre-tax (£) | EPS | Dividend | Pay day | X-div |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| AFM Holdings (F) | 42,299m (26,590m) | 9,422m (4,529m) | 12.5p (7.1p) | - | - | - |
| Crest Nicholson (F) | 465.4m (263.0m) | 28.1m (20.5m) | 16.80p (11.75p) | 4.75p (3.75p) | 08.04.99 | 08.02.99 |
| Barclay Electronics (I) | 146,302m (152,499m) | 3,403m (3,811m) | 2.75p (3.44p) | 2.15p (2.15p) | 08.04.99 | 15.02.99 |
| Independent Energy (I) | 88,222m (2,728m) | 0.707m (4.45m) | 2.5p (12.8p) | - | - | - |
| Intersect Technology (F) | 11,812m (5,07m) | 0.555m (1.38m) | 0.12p (4.51p) | - | - | - |
| Northumbria (I) | 140,251m (143,94m) | 4,442m (4,261m) | 8.5p (8.4p) | 1.2p (-) | 04.05.99 | 06.04.99 |
| Recognition Systems Group (F) | 70,788m (1,773m) | 2,280m (2,255m) | -4.3p (-4.1p) | - | - | - |
| S&S Entertainment Group (I) | 1,262m (2,224m) | 0.506m (1,027m) | 3.95p (7.25p) | - | - | - |
| Safegroup (F) | 206.4m (277.3m) | 14.4m (16.5m) | 12.5p (23.3p) | 5.0p (4.2p) | 08.05.99 | 12.04.99 |

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (Q) - Quarterly (SP) - Split Period (P) - New Month

* Adjusted

Bonds plunge on Japan debt fears

BY LEA PATERSON

Traders speculated that investors would move money into Japan to take advantage of the higher bond yields, and the dollar fell to 112.77 yen, down from 114.96 in late trade on Monday.

Technical factors relating to the Japanese fiscal year-end on 31 March and mounting US-Japan trade tensions also undermined the dollar.

Etsuko Sakakibara, a leading official in Japan's finance ministry known as "Mr Yen" because of the impact of his remarks on the Japanese currency, highlighted the trade issues at a conference in Tokyo.

He warned that trade relations with the US, already strained, could deteriorate further over the course of the year. His comments fanned speculation that the Japanese authorities could let the yen rise against the dollar to placate the US.

One analyst said: "The feeling is that the US will want a weaker dollar, although no one has suggested that in the US administration."

The surge in yields had a knock-on effect in the currency markets, where the dollar fell by almost 2 per cent against the yen, its biggest one-day drop since mid-November.

Crest sells record number of homes

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

THE CHAIRMAN of Crest Nicholson, John Matthews, yesterday reported a good performance for 1998 when the upmarket housebuilder sold a record 2,210 units, nearly 60 per cent of them in the prosperous South-east and a similar proportion on the brownfield sites favoured by government policy.

Turnover rose by 38 per cent, profit before tax was up by 37 per cent to £28.1m and earnings per share rose 41 per cent to 16.8p, marginally ahead of market forecasts.

Average prices rose nearly 20 per cent, with half the improvement coming from the expensive central London flats offered by Nicholson Estates, the specialist division set up two years. It made its first contribution to profits last year, and has already replenished its portfolio of sites.

Operating margins on housebuilding rose from 11.4 per cent to a satisfactory 12 per cent, the property division returned to profit and the reduced contribution from the construction division was more than accounted for by a £1.3m provision on a doubtful debt.

Half the 110 flats in the converted spice warehouse opposite the Tower of London have been sold, including 30 sales in Hong Kong. The land bank for immediate development has been increased by almost 10 per cent to 6,529 units, or three years' supply at current sales.

Crest is banking heavily on sustained expansion. Net borrowings almost doubled to £77.3m and the group has been gearing up to fund the development of the Claybury Hospital site at Chigwell, where 770 homes will be built between 2000 and 2004. Analysts are forecasting a more modest growth in profits to £30.8m and earnings of 18.2p a share. The shares, which bottomed at 81p in October, rose 3p to 124.5p.

IN BRIEF

Vardy buys 12 car dealerships

REG VARDY, the acquisitive motor dealer based in Sunderland, has bought a further 12 dealerships in the west of Scotland, North-east England, Yorkshire, the Midlands and the South-east from Caledonia Motor for £18.8m.

In the six months to 31 October Vardy sold 66,715 cars - an increase of 32 per cent - and lifted the value of sales by 38 per cent to £567m and pre-tax profits by 46 per cent to £12.3m.

Cadbury job cuts

CADBURY SCHWEPES is to shed 300 of the 4,000 jobs through voluntary redundancies at its Bourneville chocolate factory in a cost-cutting exercise. Apple Computer is cutting 450 jobs at its plant in Cork, following a decision to transfer production of the IMAC model to a sub-contractor in South Korea.

Tunnel buys back

EUROTUNNEL, the Anglo-French Channel Tunnel company, yesterday bought back £134m of its own bonds, which are trading at a deep discount to face value, for just £38m. The deal will save Eurotunnel £5.5m a year in financial charges.

Glits are top

UK GLITS were among the best performing financial assets last year, according to a new study, easily outstripping equities. Glits outperformed equities by 11 per cent in 1998, according to the annual Barclays Capital Equity-Gilt study.

Free Internet

INTERNET Technology Group is to follow Dixons and Tesco by launching a free internet service in the next few weeks. Laurence Blackall, ITG's chief executive, yesterday said the company was in talks with a number of media and retail groups about launching the service.

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Takeover takes m to dizzy

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Takeover talk takes mid caps to dizzy heights

AS BLUE CHIPS dilled and dallied the long neglected second liners enjoyed another exhilarating session, spurred by an array of takeover stories. Footsie managed a mere 0.6 points gain to 6,013. The mid cap index soared 98.5 to 5,215.3 and the small cap rose 15.2 to 2,169.8.

What has been dubbed the middle-rank momentum produced the extraordinary sight of more than 20 per cent of the mid cap constituents achieving gains of more than 5 per cent.



MARKET REPORT
DEREK PAIN

Top of the pile was Weir, the engineering group that has long been one of the stock market's takeover favourites. As if to prove that even the most bewhiskered old bid chests eventually fall, Weir confirmed an approach, likely to be from a US group, and consequently soared 62.5p to 284.5p. The shares have joined in the sudden rush to climb aboard the engineering bandwagon, advancing from less than 200p in the past few days.

The boys in dark glasses who were pointing to a Weir bid on Monday were behind a

demerged from Hilldown Holdings in October. Berkeley strong on Monday as stories of a strike circulated, rose a further 11p to 503.5p and Fairview added 8p to 95.5p. Barratt Developments rose 27p to 250.5p and Beazer, another takeover candidate, 16p to 172p.

Footsie engineers were also prominent but not strong enough to give the index much impetus. Still, there was strong two-way trading with the market enjoying yet another heavy trading session with turnover topping 1.2 billion.

AVALEON, a little contract caterer, is hungry for expansion. Under the direction of Mira Hyams-Meme it is picking up new up-market contracts, including London's St. James's Park and Leamington Spa's Pump Rooms, although profits are unlikely this year.

But, if deals continue to flow and St. James's is as lucrative as hoped, profits could be achieved next year, accompanied by a dividend. The shares are a depressed 2.5p.

10.5p jump to 74p in hard-pressed cable and construction group BICC.

The company looks vulnerable and with the aggressive Wessall group sitting on 9.3 per cent it is not difficult to get a bid story swirling around the market and provoking a remarkable 18.5 million share turnover.

The latest rumour suggested a 90p share bid from an unlikely source, General Electric Co. The excitement prompted the City's takeover panel to order a statement from Wessall which, maintaining the air of uncertainty, produced the following gem: "Wessall continues to monitor its investment and this may or may not lead to an offer for BICC."

Engineer BBA was another metal basher on the bid conveyor belt, jumping 58p to 454.5p. Others highly included Meggit, 21.5p to 171p; TT, 19p to 175p; and TI, 40p to 41p.

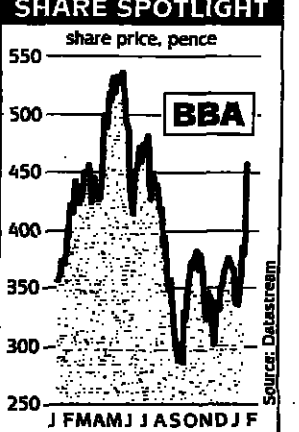
Builders, too, caught the takeover bug. They have been encouraged by a recent round of top-of-the-range profit performances and hopes of lower interest rates.

But it is the expectation of further consolidation that is producing much of the current...hustling. Berkeley, the up-market house builder, has made no secret of the attraction of Fairview, the builder

JBA, the software group, added 25p to 142.5p as the unquoted Specialist Computer Holdings let it be known that it was a near 3 per cent shareholder.

SCH is run by Peter Rigby, whose family is reputed to be worth more than £400m.

He could feel the time is right to descend on JBA, which fell to 50p last month on a loss warning. Around Christmas 1997 the shares touched 1,257.5p.



posed to a double entry under the old market making system, it would appear that volume has increased even more than the official figures indicate.

Mind you, odd trades continue to appear on the order book. Burmah was the subject of some strange inputs with the opening trade a 12,000 deal at 648.5p; the last recorded transaction was 1,353p shares at 668p. For the record Burmah closed up 5p at 790p.

The BTR/Siebert merger was belatedly cleared by the High Court but dealings in the new engineering complex, BTR Siebert, will not occur until tomorrow.

Daily Mail & General Trust, the newspaper publisher, appears to be the most likely to snap up the vacant Footsie berth; the "A" shares were little changed at 3.19p and the ordinary shares edged ahead 12.5p to 2,557.5p.

British Land, another Footsie contender, put in a late bid, rising 33p to 493p, following meetings with analysts.

Rolls-Royce, with Henderson Crosthwaite positive,

climbed 18.5p to 281p. But Kingsfisher suffered an early fall when its Castorama horse improvements off-shoot failed to gain the expected place in the Paris CAC-40 index. The shares later recovered, ending 10p higher at 635p.

Banks remained firm on merger hopes with National Westminster Bank up 41p to 1,196p. The outstanding star of the sector was Allied Irish Banks - at one time up 95p.

The shares, in busy trading, closed 79p ahead at 1,262.5p as stories swirled of a Lloyds TSB or Deutsche bid. Price was said to be 1,500p. AIB refused to comment. Bank of Ireland also joined the fun, up 27.5p to 1,397.5p.

BSkyB lost 29.5p to 439.5p as pressure grew that it should cede some of its TV football rights and hesitation mounted ahead of interim figures.

Telecoms took a breather with Colt Telecom down 51p at 1,290.5p.

Hanson, with Schroders positive, jumped 52.75p to 466p. Williams, the security group, led the Footsie leader

board, gaining 43.5p to 372.5p. Reckitt & Colman, on the departure of chief executive Vernon Sankey, jumped 50.5p to 870p as some wondered whether the household products group looked particularly vulnerable to a takeover strike.

Iceland, the retailer, warmed 10.5p to 261p as Credit Lyonnais made positive noises, drawing attention to its home delivery service. Last year's profits are expected to be £55.5m, up from £43.4m.

Profit warnings took their inevitable toll. James R Knowles slumped 21p to 44p after the construction consultant warned of a profits hit, and Staffware plunged 70p to 190p once the software group said escalating costs would hurt year's results.

Lynn, the computer group, surged 23.5p to 213.5p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson set a 350p target.

SCI Entertainment firmed 3.5p to 45p, against a 181.75p peak. The computer games group, which was back in profits in the first half of its current year, is near to releasing its new Carmageddon game on all console formats. Interim profits were £506,000 against a £1m-plus loss.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.9bn
SEAQ TRADES: 78,559
GILTS: 116.53 -0.25

Independent Energy plans £200m listing

By FRANCESCO GUERRERA

INDEPENDENT ENERGY, the fast-growing power group, is planning a £200m listing on the main London stock market in the summer in an attempt to boost its UK shareholder base.

The news came as the group announced its first interim profit and hinted at plans to buy a gas company to take advantage of deregulation in the gas and electricity market.

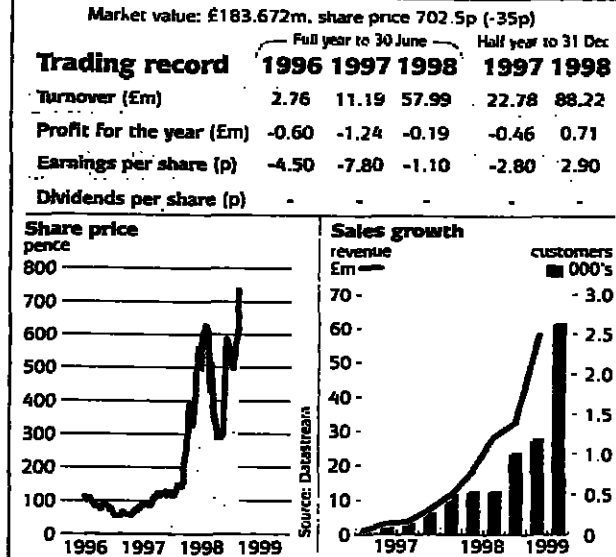
The managing director John Sulley yesterday said that the move from the junior Alternative Investment Market, to be finalised in June, would give independent "access" to a "wider portfolio" of investors. At present, almost 80 per cent of the electricity company's shareholders come from the US, where the group has a second listing on Nasdaq, the market for fast-growing companies.

Despite a six-fold increase in the share price since the 1996 float, many UK institutions have been prevented from buying Independent shares because it is quoted on AIM, he said. His comments came as Independent reported a £707,000 pre-tax profit in the first six months of the year against a £464,000 loss in 1997.

The Solihull-based company, which specialises in supplying electricity to business users, benefited from a sharp rise in the number of customers during the period.

As the electricity supply mar-

INDEPENDENT ENERGY: AT A GLANCE



ket was opened up to competition, Independent gained customers in areas dominated by Regional Electricity Companies (RECs).

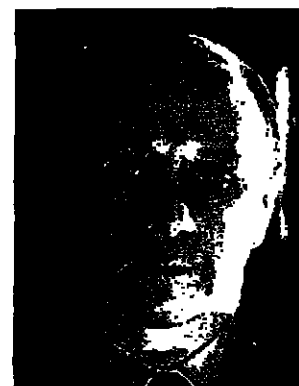
The company has secured contracts worth £400m and has 40,000 small businesses and 2,500 larger customers on its books. However, City analysts believe that the test of Independent's success will be in the race for domestic consumers.

The domestic market is being deregulated and should be free by June. Independent already has some 6,000 domestic accounts and is aiming to reach the 400,000 mark over the next few

years. It plans to bolster its presence among domestic users by buying a gas supplier and marketing a "dual fuel offer". Mr Sulley said the company wanted to spend around £10m.

However, the success of Independent's foray in the domestic market will depend on whether its lower cost base will enable it to slash prices below the levels charged by RECs.

Unlike its rivals, Independent has managed to keep a tight grip on fixed costs by outsourcing its customer billing and service operations to Vertex, a unit of United Utilities. Independent has paid £2m upfront and will



John Sulley: Prepared to pay £10m for gas supplier

give Vertex an additional £15 per customer, well below the £50-80m paid by some RECs to set up the complex IT systems needed to cope with the deregulated market.

The company's ability to generate around 10 per cent of its own electricity, rather than buying it all on the market, also helps to boost margins.

These two factors should lead to lower prices, although some analysts remain sceptical on Independent's chances of penetrating the RECs' fiefdoms.

The stock underlined this uncertainty yesterday, down 35p to 702.5p. They are now on 35 times this year's earnings - forecast at £7m. Given the uncertainties over deregulation and the recent heavy run, there is better short-term value elsewhere.

Upbeat prospects for chip designer

By PETER THAL LARSEN

INTERNET STOCKS may be the flavour of the moment. But in recent months many investors have been ignoring the type and paying more attention to ARM, the British computer chip designer that is taking the semiconductor world by storm.

Yesterday shares in ARM surged to a new high of £123.5p, up 100p, as the Cambridge-based group beat analysts' forecasts with a 58 per cent jump in revenues to £42.2m for the year to December. Pre-tax profits more than doubled to £9.4m.

The shares have trebled in value since ARM floated on the London and Nasdaq exchanges last April, taking the company's market value close to £900m.

ARM designs sophisticated processor chips that use relatively little power, making them perfect for use in battery-powered machines.

Chips based on the group's designs can be found in Pison organisers, mobile phones and portable games consoles such as Sony's new PocketStation.

ARM does not make the chips itself but licenses the designs to large manufacturers.

In the process, the company has signed up an impressive array of names. Last year Hewlett Packard, the US giant, and Matsushita and Toshiba, the Japanese groups, signed up for licenses. ARM also linked up with Intel, the chip giant.

Around 50m ARM-designed chips were shipped last year, compared to just 10m in 1997. Since the beginning of the year, the company has signed up another four licensees.

But Robin Saxby, ARM's chief executive, is aiming higher: "There are 150 semiconductor companies in the world and only 30 are licensees," he says. Ultimately, he wants every electronics group to license ARM's technology as well.

According to City analysts, ARM's revenues are set to grow sharply over the next few years as demand for mobile computing increases. "They are in absolutely the right place at the right time," one says.

And even though ARM is now valued at 21-times last year's revenues, experts are still positive on the shares.

Skillsgroup in £70m buying spree

By FRANCESCO GUERRERA

SKILLSGROUP, the computer services and training company, is preparing to spend as much as £70m on acquisitions in the next few months in an attempt to beef up its information technology consultancy business.

David Southworth, Skillsgroup's executive chairman, said yesterday the group was looking at a number of privately owned companies that would give Skillsgroup a presence in the fast-growing market for designing Internet-based computer systems.

"There are one or two com-

panies in that area we are interested in," Mr Southworth said.

However, he stressed the company did not want to be in "me-too" information technology services, such as implementing enterprise planning software for major companies.

An acquisition would be Skillsgroup's first expansion after a lengthy period in which it has shrunk dramatically.

In the past year, the company has sold most of its distribution businesses in order

to concentrate on QA, its training arm, and Accuma, which installs large computer servers.

In the year to last November, pre-tax profits from continuing operations jumped 36 per cent to £12.2m on revenues up 16 per cent to £162m.

Mr Southworth said operating profits were expected to grow by 20 per cent this year before the impact of any acquisitions.

However, he predicted that the final quarter of the year was likely to be tough as companies put projects on

hold before the end of the millennium.

The City responded positively to the results, driving the shares up 3.5p to 236.5p.

One analyst pointed out that a large chunk of Skillsgroup's revenues comes from reselling computer hardware rather than services, highlighting the need for an acquisition.

However, he added that on a multiple of just 17-times expected 1999 earnings the shares were still good value compared to the rest of the information technology sector.

Poacher turned gamekeeper

SAM JAFFA must be keeping his head down in the staff canteen over at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The PwC spokesman penned a lively time, *Great Financial Scandals*, just before he switched careers from being a BBC reporter to accountancy PR man a couple of years ago. The book has a particularly lurid chapter on "The Robert Maxwell Affair", including Coopers & Lybrand's role as Maxwell's auditor.

Coopers went on to merge with Price Waterhouse to form PwC. Coincidentally Mr Jaffa's next chapter in his book is on "BCCI - the bank of crack, cocaine and ice". The corrupt bank was, of course, audited by Price Waterhouse...

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

For years and years BZW pumped out its comparative study on investment. Then CSFB bought the equity side of BZW, and the remains of the investment bank were renamed Barclays Capital. Both successor institutions lay claim to the Gilt Study.

You might expect that the CSFB Equity-Gilt Study, published on Monday, would seek to be as different as possible to the Barclays Capital Equity-Gilt Study which was published yesterday.

Bizarrely, both sets of analysts compared notes informally - they do have neighbouring offices in Canary Wharf, after all - and have come up with identical headline numbers. Both say that for 1998 gilts' real returns rose by



31.7 per cent, whereas equity real returns were up by 10.6 per cent.

Sadly, there is still no word from Michael Hughes, now at Barings Asset Management, who for many years headed up the original study at BZW. Who knows, it could be triplets yet.

"We thought he might just be in a rush to get some Weir Group shares ahead of the announcement," quipped Mr Metzger with commendable sang froid.

No PFI input

ALAN MILBURN, the new Chief Secretary to the Treasury, made his first keynote speech in the job yesterday after taking over responsibility for the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) from the former paymaster-general, Geoffrey Robinson.

Mr Milburn happily sang a hymn of praise to the Government's commitment to the initiative, standing beside a large projection screen in the QE II Centre in Westminster.

As he ended his address the words "Alan Milburn" faded from the screen, to be replaced

by the phrase: "No input received".

Just about spot on for the PFI, I'd say.

Watch Informa

STEPHEN WARSHAW is in no mood for hanging around now that he has arrived at Informa Group as the director in charge of publishing.

The former Reed man is determined to weld together the business information activities of LLP and IBC, which merged to form Informa in autumn last year.

Mr Warshaw, 50, wants to grow the telecommunications information side of the business, and get as many of the traditional business titles, such as *Lloyd's List*, online.

Where the company still has a small presence, such as in biomedical or pharmaceutical publishing, it may go on the acquisition trail, he says. Informa will also be looking to buy businesses in the US.

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

| FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|------|--|
| Country | Sterling | 1 month | 3 month | Dollar | Spot | 1 month | 3 month | Euro | |
| UK | 1.0000 | | | 0.6084 | 0.6088 | 0.6094 | 0.6085 | | |
| Australia | 1.5681 | 2.5664 | 2.5644 | 1.5623 | 1.5628 | 1.5633 | 1.5628 | | |
| Austria | 19.985 | 19.988 | 19.992 | 1.5623 | 1.5628 | 1.5633 | 1.5628 | | |
| Belgium | 58.585 | 58.457 | 58.273 | 35.544 | 35.596 | 35.482 | 40.340 | | |
| Canada | 7.4857 | 7.4842 | 7.4818 | 1.5123 | 1.5125 | 1.5124 | 1.5115 | | |
| Denmark | 10.802 | 10.783 | 10.740 | 6.5117 | 6.5133 | 6.5131 | 6.5100 | | |
| Euro | 1.4524 | 1.4453 | 1.4431 | 1.5117 | 1.5133 | 1.5131 | 1.5100 | | |
| Finland | 6.6352 | 6.6176 | 6.5816 | 5.2536 | 5.2466 | 5.2297 | 5.2457 | | |
| France | 9.1527 | 9.1507 | 9.1488 | 7.2811 | 7.2811 | 7.2811 | 7.2811 | | |
| Germany | 2.9408 | 2.9347 | 2.9329 | 282.58 | 283.79 | 286.33 | 319.81 | | |
| Greece | 364.48 | 366.14 | 366.84 | 1.7811 | 1.7811 | 1.7811 | 1.7811 | | |
| Hong Kong | 12.737 | 12.734 | 12.749 | 7.7492 | 7.7492 | 7.7492 | 7.7492 | | |
| Ireland | 1.1438 | 1.1415 | 1.1415 | 1.7109 | 1.7109 | 1.7109 | 1.7109 | | |
| Italy | 201.15 | 201.15 | 201.15 | 11.654 | 11.654 | 11.654 | 11.654 | | |
| Japan | 184.16 | 183.37 | 181.75 | 112.04 | 112.04 | 112.04 | 112.04 | | |
| Malaysia | 6.2461 | 6.3861 | 6.3965 | 3.0880 | 3.0880 | 3.0880 | 3.0880 | | |
| Mexico | 16.590 | | | 1.0432 | 1.0432 | 1.0432 | 1.0432 | | |
| Netherlands | 3.2009 | 3.1940 | 3.1907 | 1.9446 | 1.9384 | 1.9384 | 1.9384 | | |
| New Zealand | 3.0154 | 3.0142 | 3.0125 | 0.5451 | 0.5451 | 0.5451 | 0.5451 | | |
| Norway | 12.470 | 12.470 | 12.470 | 7.2811 | 7.2811 | 7.2811 | 7.2811 | | |
| Portugal | 201.17 | 200.57 | 200.36 | 1.7114 | 1.7114 | 1.7114 | 1.7114 | | |
| Saudi Arabia | 6.1647 | 6.1685 | 6.1685 | 3.7508 | 3.7508 | 3.7508 | 3.7508 | | |
| South Africa | 9.8910 | 9.8985 | 9.8985 | 6.0175 | 6.0175 | 6.0175 | 6.0175 | | |
| Spain | 241.65 | 241.15 | 240.14 | 142.02 | 146.82 | 145.25 | 186.356 | | |
| Sweden | 12.577 | 12.552 | 12.518 | 7.8240 | 7.8240 | 7.8240 | 7.8240 | | |
| Switzerland | 2.174 | 2.1710 | 2.1694 | 1.4111 | 1.4070 | 1.3983 | 1.3917 | | |
| US | 1.6437 | | | 1.0000 | | | | | |

| INTEREST RATES | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|------------|-------|----------|----------|-------|
| UK | Base | 6.00% | Discount | 5.25% | Repo (Ave) | 3.40% | Japan | Discount | 0.50% |
| Base | 6.00% | | | | | | Discount | 0.50% | |
| Overnight | 6.00% | | | | | | Discount | 0.50% | |
| 1 week | 6.00% | | | | | | Discount | 0.50% | |
| 1 month | 6.00% | | | | | | Discount | 0.50% | |
| 3 months | 6.00% | | | | | | Discount | 0.50% | |
| 6 months | 6.00% | | | | | | Discount | 0.50% | |
| 1 year | 6.00% | | | | | | Discount | 0.50% | |
| 2 years | 6.00% | | | | | | Discount | 0.50% | |
| 3 years | 6.00% | | | | | | Discount | 0.50% | |
| 5 years | 6.00% | | | | | | Discount | 0.50% | |
| 10 years | 6.00% | | | | | | Discount | 0.50% | |
| Country | 3 month | 1 yr | 2 yr | 3 yr | 5 yr | 10 yr | Country | 3 month | 1 yr |
| Australia | 4.50 | 0.00 | 4.63 | -0.02 | 4.75 | -0.01 | 4.88 | 0.01 | 5.17 |
| Belgium | 2.96 | 0.00 | 2.83 | 0.00 | 3.04 | -0.07 | 3.45 | 0.02 | 3.91 |
| Canada | 4.72 | 0.01 | 4.89 | 0.01 | 4.83 | 0.03 | 4.90 | 0.04 | 5.03 |
| France | 3.09 | 0.01 | 3.00 | 0.02 | 2.94 | 0.01 | 3.27 | 0.01 | 3.69 |
| Germany | 3.09 | 0.01 | 3.00 | 0.02 | 2.93 | 0.01 | 3.28 | 0.03 | 3.79 |
| Italy | 2.92 | 0.00 | 2.84 | 0.00 | 2.92 | 0.00 | 3.18 | -0.01 | 3.69 |
| Japan | 0.29 | 0.00 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 0.72 | 0.07 | 1.57 | 0.19 | 2.39 |
| Netherlands | 3.09 | 0.01 | 3.00 | 0.02 | 3.01 | 0.04 | 3.33 | 0.08 | 3.81 |
| Spain | 2.95 | 0.05 | 2.85 | -0.03 | 2.93 | 0.01 | 3.38 | 0.03 | 3.92 |
| Sweden | 3.61 | 0.00 | 3.24 | 0.01 | 3.28 | 0.01 | 3.48 | 0.03 | 4.01 |
| Switzerland | 1.23 | 0.00 | 1.50 | 0.01 | 1.58 | 0.01 | 1.93 | 0.02 | 2.43 |
| US | 5.35 | 0.00 | 5.50 | 0.00 | 4.82 | 0.02 | 4.22 | -0.10 | 4.14 |
| UK | 4.41 | 0.11 | 4.36 | 0.21 | 4.68 | -0.03 | 4.67 | -0.03 | 4.79 |

| LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|---------------|--------|----------|--------------|
| Contract | | Settlement | High | Low | Est floor volume | Open interest | | | |
| Long Gilt | Mar-99 | 119.89 | 120.00 | 119.57 | 41302.00 | 105424.00 | | | |
| 5 Yr Gilt | Mar-99 | 109.63 | ... | ... | ... | 63.00 | | | |
| German Bund | Mar-99 | 117.11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Italian Bond | Mar-99 | 115.03 | 114.96 | 115.03 | 117089.00 | 44569.00 | | | |
| Japan Govt Bd | Mar-99 | 117.15 | 117.20 | 126.71 | 127.00 | ... | | | |
| 3 Mth Sterling | Mar-98 | 94.39 | 94.42 | 94.38 | 17842.00 | 190756.00 | | | |
| | Jun-99 | 94.72 | 94.75 | 94.70 | 2979.00 | 190756.00 | | | |
| 3 Mth Eurobor | Feb-99 | 96.92 | 96.93 | 96.92 | 44.00 | 225.00 | | | |
| | Mar-99 | 96.96 | 96.99 | 96.96 | 31751.00 | 84266.00 | | | |
| 3 Mth Euroyen | Apr-99 | 97.03 | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 3 Mth Euroswiss | Mar-99 | 96.67 | 96.67 | 96.61 | 8991.00 | 86798.00 | | | |
| 3 Mth Euro Libor | Apr-99 | 98.57 | 98.58 | 98.51 | 7122.00 | 42724.00 | | | |
| | Feb-99 | 96.67 | 96.67 | 96.66 | 96.66 | 163203.00 | | | |
| | Mar-99 | 96.96 | 96.96 | 96.96 | 96.96 | 163203.00 | | | |
| | Apr-99 | 97.03 | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| FTSE 100 | Mar-99 | 6007.00 | 6050.00 | 5914.00 | 30834.00 | 167787.00 | | | |
| LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION | | | | | | | | | |
| Settlement Price: 6013.00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Series | Feb | Mar | Mar | Mar | Mar | Mar | Mar | Mar | Mar |
| | Call | Call | Put | Call | Put | Call | Put | Call | Put |
| 5950 | 163 | 219 | 151 | 31 | 269 | 269 | 350 | 339 | 434 |
| 6000 | 134 | 28 | 172 | 30 | 240 | 290 | 318 | 359 | 404 |
| 6050 | 108 | 28 | 199 | 30 | 209 | 312 | 287 | 386 | 427 |
| 6100 | 59 | 27 | 228 | 30 | 188 | 341 | 262 | 406 | 347 |
| ENERGY AT 5:30PM | | | | | | | | | |
| Brent Crude | Crude | Oil (\$/bbl) | WTI Crude | Oil (\$/bbl) | Producers | Oil (\$/bbl) | Spot | Crude | Oil (\$/bbl) |
| Apr 11.84 | 11.73 | Vol 96 | 11.84 | 11.73 | 11.84 | 11.73 | 11.84 | 11.73 | 11.84 |
| Mar 10.78 | -0.11 | 14880 | Feb 96 | 10.28 | 6734 | Mar 12.30 | -0.16 | Gasoline | 95 114.9 |
| May 10.87 | -0.10 | 5788 | Mar 97 | 97.50 | 200 | Jun 12.37 | -0.11 | Naphtha | 82.00 |
| May 11.09 | -0.09 | 2779 | Apr 98 | 99.00 | 175 | Aug 12.34 | -0.11 | Fuel Oil | 35.60 |
| | | | | | | Jun | | | |
| GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES AT 5:30PM | | | | | | | | | |
| | BASE DATE | LAST | CHG | %CHG | 31 DEC | %CHG | 31 DEC | %CHG | 31 DEC |
| Index | 1970=100 | 133.59 | 1.10 | 0.8 | 215.26 | -27.94 | 215.26 | -27.94 | 215.26 |
| Agricultural | 1970=100 | 179.30 | 1.40 | 0.8 | 231.23 | -33.19 | 231.23 | -33.19 | 231.23 |
| Energy | 1980=100 | 1217 | 43.77 | 3.7 | 155.86 | -48.00 | 155.86 | -48.00 | 155.86 |
| Ind Metals | 1977=100 | 126.47 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 168.79 | -25.07 | 168.79 | -25.07 | 168.79 |
| Livestock | 1970=100 | 159.70 | -0.07 | -0.04 | 181.03 | -16.40 | 181.03 | -16.40 | 181.03 |
| Prec Metals | 1975=100 | 385.00 | 1.38 | 0.36 | 463.54 | -16.77 | 463.54 | -16.77 | 463.54 |

Taylor ends his glorious Test career

Stephen Brenkley examines the achievements of Australia's remarkable cricket captain, who has finally earned recognition of fellow countrymen

HE WAS a country boy but he might have been a king. Mark Taylor was noble, humble, gracious and hard as nails. He chewed gum instead of wearing a crown but it never remotely diminished his majesty. Yesterday in Sydney, Taylor confirmed the worst kept secret of the millennium and announced his retirement as an international cricketer and captain of Australia.

His replacement will be named next week and, while "the king is dead, long live the king" is a necessary adage in sport as well as in politics, it is difficult to imagine that the Australian Cricket Board will turn up anybody who can rotate his bowlers so effectively. Taylor, 34, has been one of the most successful of all 39 captains of Australia and while some debate has arisen these past few days about the precise tier on which he should sit in the pantheon, this is largely academic. "Nubby" Taylor is right up there.

The measure of the respect and esteem in which he is held was apparent yesterday at the large gathering in a Sydney hotel where he formally ended his tenure. There was a phalanx of cameras, notebooks and tape recorders, and if there were any real kings in town their visit would have gone unrecorded. Taylor, always Nubby or Tubby in the game for the robustness of his girth, fielded the questions with his usual decorum and generosity, and when there were none left and he was ready to depart, his audience broke into a prolonged round of applause. Since the assembly consisted almost entirely of reporters, presenters, commentators, writers and various types of cameramen, all species who would usually rather cut off their hands than applaud an object of their scrutiny with them, Taylor could be said to have done something right.

He scored 7,525 runs as a left-handed opener of limited range but quite formidable knowledge of the whereabouts of his off stump, a total second only to Allan Border. He took a world record 157 catches, most of them at first slip, and if there

has been anybody quicker or safer in that position he has never been caught on film. As captain he won 26 and drew 11 of his 50 Tests and won 11 from 14 series. Australia are world champions by a distance. Last autumn his life changed forever, as did the public perception of him, when he made 334 not out in a Test against Pakistan in Peshawar. He had always been seen as a man of high principles, but when he declared on that score he entered territory reserved for gods.

That was the amount Donald Bradman had once made in a Test match, the highest ever by an Australian. Taylor could have overtaken it and probably gone on to beat the highest Test score of 375, but he put the needs of the team first. Some have since suggested that he might have declared earlier, which is to show that mean-

ness is alive and kicking, and although Taylor himself has said that he did not deliberately declare on 334 this has been ignored.

Taylor was made Australian of the Year last week and while critics said it should have gone to someone who makes a more tangible difference to the world, they miss the point that he is an exemplar for a generation. "I have got more out of cricket

than I have given to cricket," he said, and for once he was probably misguided. "I'm starting to lose the edge to compete at Test level and I couldn't just go on as captain. I dare say I'll be sad when the guys go off to the West Indies and the captain says a few words about how well he hopes the team will do but I know I've made the right decision."

Denis Rogers, the chairman of the ACB, contented himself with saying that they had always made it abundantly clear Taylor would leave on his terms. "He has always had our full support but it was up to him when he retired. I don't challenge the intellectual rigour he has brought to the decision."

The record Taylor leaves is impressive enough but the number of runs, catches and victories do not alone convey the qualities of the man who accumulated them. In a sport which can never have been more intense, where gamesmanship and occasional sharp practice have come to be expected, he was a dazzling example.

Alec Stewart, the England captain, touched on it in his tribute. "He will be the best captain I've played with or against. He's the best tactically I've seen but he was always down to earth, always played the game as it should be played, played it hard, played it fair. I respect him as a bloke and a cricketer. He's a really good bloke."

Taylor was a Wagga boy who moved to Sydney. He first played for Australia on his home ground against West Indies 10 years ago. His best series as a player came the following summer in England. "For a month I couldn't get a run," he said yesterday. "My highest score was 11 and I remember saying, I think to my dad, that at least I've made one Ashes tour, I don't expect to make another." The Test series started and Taylor's form was transformed. He put England to the sword throughout the summer. There were two centuries, five 50s, 339 series runs, an average of 83.90 and at Trent Bridge he and Geoff Marsh batted for the whole of the first day without being parted.



On top of the world: Mark Taylor holds his arms aloft after completing his triple century during Australia's victory in the second Test against Pakistan at Peshawar last year

Taylor certainly had a hard act to follow when he was handed the captaincy on Allan Border's retirement in 1994 but he quickly asserted his quieter, but perfectly open-mouthed, style of leadership. In his second series he retained the Ashes and in his third he took a side to the Caribbean and won 2-0. That, he recalled, was the second highlight of his career because the tour was heading towards disaster. Taylor is credited with pulling it round.

By the time he came to England in 1997 to defend the Ashes, Taylor was under the severest pressure of his career. The runs had all but completely dried up and his critics, many of them former Australia captains, were jostling each other to find a microphone down which they could opine that Taylor ought to go and sharpen.

He had gone 20 Test innings without a 50 and Australians have never picked a captain and then the team. Their belief is that the captain comes from the best 11 players and Taylor, it was felt, was no longer that regardless of the side's glorious results. The knives were not so much out as piercing his back.

That was the lowest moment. In the first innings at Edgbaston I think I was caught after 113 matches and 67 as a captain with a 54 per cent win rate. This miffed him, as he said at the time, but his position as Test captain was unassailable. He knew when to change bowlers, he exposed opposition weaknesses, he knew how to impose pressure and his team's authority, he wanted to win, he was lucky.

Taylor's replacement will probably be Steve Waugh, though Shane Warne and Mark Waugh will also be discussed. All three might probably ask him what chewing gum he used.

He was dropped from Australia's one-day side last year after 113 matches and 67 as a captain with a 54 per cent win rate. This miffed him, as he said at the time, but his position as Test captain was unassailable. He knew when to change bowlers, he exposed opposition weaknesses, he knew how to impose pressure and his team's authority, he wanted to win, he was lucky.

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Klusener steps in to rescue the Boks

By GRAHAM ALLTREE
in Cape Town

South Africa 221-8

DALE BENKENSTEIN scored a maiden international half century and Lance Klusener blazed 54 in just 36 balls as South Africa fought back in the fifth one-day international match against the West Indies in Cape Town yesterday.

Mark Boucher made an equally vital 34 as South Africa recovered after a miserable start - which saw them 68 for 6 - to make 221 for 8 on a Newlands pitch offering bounce and movement.

Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, won the toss and elected to bat on a pitch that ended up playing very slowly, making stroke play difficult. Nixon McLean did the early damage, taking all three wickets as the home side were reduced to 30 for three by the 15th over.

Keith Simple, a medium-pace bowler, continued to apply the pressure and took two quick wickets including that of Cronje, caught behind for two in his 100th one-day international as South African captain. Curtly Ambrose claimed the wicket of Jacques Kallis with a slower ball to leave South Africa's much vaunted lower order facing a major rebuilding operation.

Benkenstein - run out on the last ball for 69 - added 62 in 17 overs with Boucher who edged an Ambrose delivery to the wicketkeeper, Klusener, an all-rounder, then came to the wicket at 130 for 7 with ten overs remaining. He hit three sixes and two fours in a bruising South African eighth wicket record partnership of 91.

The last two wickets added 153 in 27 overs. South Africa led the best of seven series by three matches to one.

South Africa won toss

SOUTH AFRICA
G Kirsten c Jacobs b McLean 4
H H Gibbs b McLean 17
J Kallis bow b Ambrose 16
S Pollock c Chanderpaul b McLean 8
V Cronje c Jacobs b Simple 2
J Rhodes c Ambrose b Simple 2
D Benkenstein run out 69
M Boucher c Jacobs b Ambrose 34
L Klusener not out 54
Sauras (84 nb-1 w) 8
Total (for 8, 50 overs) 221
Fall: 1-10 2-33 3-50 4-52 5-52 6-68 7-110 8-221
Bowling: McLean 10-0-41-3 (3 w), Jung 5-1-39-0, Ambrose 10-0-38-2, Simple 10-0-35-1 (1 w), Ambrose 6-0-31-0, Hooper 5-0-33-0
David Terbrugge, the South African seamer, has withdrawn from the forthcoming tour of New Zealand because of an ankle injury. The 22-year-old will be replaced by the veteran all-rounder Steve Elworthy, 32.

Thomas puts England in command

DARREN THOMAS claimed three wickets to put England A in a commanding position against Zimbabwe in the first A Test in Harare yesterday.

The game closed on 63 for 5 after the Glamorgan medium-pace and Mervyn Betts of Durham took the wickets during a day bright by overnight rain and had light. Only one hour and 45 minutes play were possible. Michael Vaughan, the England captain, put Zimbabwe in on a soft, green wicket and Betts, Thomas and Andy Cripps immediately found plenty of seam movement.

BY MARK HARGREAVES
in Harare

England struck in the seventh over when Betts had Trevor Madondo caught behind. Six overs later Craig Whistart fell to Thomas after his back foot dislodged a ball as he set off for a run. Only Guy Whittall, Zimbabwe's senior batsman, offered any resistance, before he was out for 24, caught by Graeme Swann, as he tried to guide Betts through gully. Swann also caught Don

Campbell off Thomas, who also removed Dirk Viljoen. Thomas finished with 3 for 24 and Betts 2 for 30.

England A have managed only four days play from a possible nine on their tour because of a severe Zimbabwean rainy season.

First day: England A won toss
Zimbabwe A - First innings
T N Madondo c Read b Betts 5
C B Whistart c Swann b Thomas 24
D P Viljoen c Read b Thomas 6
S V Carlisle not out 9
D J R Campbell c Swann b Thomas 3
A M Blignaut not out 0
Extras (22 nb) 8
Total (for 5, 23 overs) 63
Fall: 1-9 2-32 3-45 4-54 5-58

Logan's runs carry tourists to safety

BY SPENCER WRIGHT
in New Plymouth

England Under-19 285
New Zealand Under-19 12-2

father were determined that he should play - and he certainly has not regretted his decision.

After his display with the bat he took the new ball and took a wicket in his first over, having Tim McIntosh caught high at second slip by Joe Tucker. Soon after, the Somerset left-arm Matt Bulbeck trap Kiwi skipper Jarrod Englandfield before for a first-ball duck.

leaving New Zealand on 12 for 2, still 273 behind.

England's captain, Michael Gough, and Ian Flanagan put on 47 for the first wicket before Gough edged a lifting ball from James Franklin to New Zealand's wicketkeeper, Peter McGlashan.

The tourists then suffered a collapse with the middle-order departing in the space of six overs. Ian Bell and Michael Carberry were both caught at short leg while John Maunders edged to second slip. Flanagan had batted superbly for 53 but he fell straight

after lunch, caught by Englandfield. He was the first of five victims for seamer Hayden Shaw.

After Bulbeck fell first ball to Shaw, the Yorkshire all-rounder Richard Dawson began the fightback with an aggressive 67 that included a pulled six which almost clattered into the team bus.

Dawson added 73 for the time with Tucker but punishing form of Logan, ably supported by Wallace, really turned the game around.

First youth test match (New Plymouth) England Under-19 285 (R.J. Dawson 67, R.J. Logan 61, I. Flanagan 53, H. Shaw 54; New Zealand Under-19 12-2

SNOW REPORTS in association with WorldCover Direct

| Resort | Area | Comment | Slopes | cm | up | Last | Temp | Forecast |
|---------------------|------|-----------------------|--------|-----|------|------|--------------|----------|
| ANDORRA | | | | | | | | |
| Par de la Casa 100% | | Fresh snow | 80 | 100 | 27.1 | -11C | Light snow | |
| AUSTRIA | | | | | | | | |
| Schladming 75% | | Lots of fresh snow | 40 | 165 | 30.1 | -9C | Cold | |
| Schladming 99% | | Fresh snow | 50 | 100 | 29.1 | -6C | Cold | |
| BULGARIA | | | | | | | | |
| Pamporovo 100% | | Fresh snow | 55 | 75 | 01.2 | -5C | Cloudy | |
| CANADA | | | | | | | | |
| Tremount 65% | | Fresh top layer | 40 | 60 | 02.2 | -AC | Cloudy, snow | |
| FRANCE | | | | | | | | |
| Chaud 100% | | Portes du Soleil good | 180 | 180 | 28.1 | -6C | Colder | |
| Morcart 100% | | Good everywhere | 90 | 140 | 29.1 | -10C | Sunlike | |
| ITALY | | | | | | | | |
| Arabis 95% | | Belvedere bowl good | 45 | 70 | 28.1 | -10C | Changeable | |
| Champoluc 100% | | Fresh snow | 70 | 120 | 29.1 | -8C | Changeable | |
| NORWAY | | | | | | | | |
| Gaio 100% | | Good snow cover | 70 | 60 | 26.1 | -5C | Changeable | |
| SCOTLAND | | | | | | | | |
| Calgorn 10% | | Soft lower down | 20 | 45 | 29.1 | -5C | Clear | |
| SWITZERLAND | | | | | | | | |
| Leprie 100% | | Much improved | 95 | 140 | 29.1 | -5C | Cloudy | |
| UNITED STATES | | | | | | | | |
| Jackson Hole 100% | | Poorest powder | 210 | 230 | 01.2 | -6C | Bright | |

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TRAVEL INSURANCE

TODAY'S FIXTURES

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| FOOTBALL 7.30 started | Abdon (7.0), Second Division: Blackpool v York City (7.0); Scarborough v Newcastle Utd (7.0); Sheffield Utd v Shrewsbury Town (7.0); Third Division: Chester City v Barry (2.0); Chesterfield v Darlington (2.0); Hartlepool Utd v Walsall (7.0); Rochdale v Scunthorpe Utd (2.0). |
| FA CUP (Sponsored by AXA) | Fourth-round replays: Chelsea v Oxford Utd (7.45); Huddersfield v Wrexham (7.45). |
| FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Manchester Utd v Derby (8.0) | |
| TENNIS: SCOTCH CUP THIRD ROUND | Oydebank v Ross County |
| REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES Combined Services XI v Rymen League XI (at Aldershot Military Stadium) | |
| RYMAN LEAGUE Second Division: Harlow Town v Windsor & Eton (7.45). | |
| UNION LEAGUE CUP Third-round replays: Gateshead v Paisley Celtic (7.45). | |
| DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP Second round: Rancing Club Warwick v Sutton Coldfield Town (7.45). | |
| UNION LEAGUE CUP First Division: Eastbourne Town v Langney Sports; Selley v Hornham YMCA (7.45). | |
| SCREWFOX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Chippenham Town v Brimsford (7.45). Les Phillips Cup third round: Yeovil Town v Bridport (7.45). | |
| JEWSON WESSLEY LEAGUE CUP Quarter-finals first leg: Eastleigh v Bournemouth FC; Monksfields v Christchurch. | |
| FOOTBALL LEAGUE Premier Division: Birmingham City v Manchester Utd (7.15); Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa (7.15) (at Mansfield Town FC). First Division: Barnsley v Grimsby Town (7.0); Middlesbrough v West Bromwich | |

Turner free to rekindle rivalry

DARREN TURNER, a Wembley try-scorer for Sheffield Eagles last year, will be free to play in their re-match against Salford, the side they beat in the semi-finals, despite being given a one-match ban last night.

Turner was sent off for a reckless high tackle in the friendly against Wakefield, but will serve his ban in another pre-season run-out, against Hull this Friday.

This year's Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth-round tie between Salford and Sheffield will be the televised game on Saturday, 13 February. The meeting of the heavy hitters, between Leeds and Wigan, would have been the obvious candidate for that slot, but Leeds United are at home that day and the tie will now be televised on the Sunday.

All Wigan's first-team squad, apart from Denis Betts and Mark Reber, will feature in a friendly at Halifax tonight. Betts is still recovering from a knee injury and expects to be fit by Easter, while the Aus-

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

tralian Reber, Wigan's likely first-choice hooker now that Jon Clarke has been gaoled, has yet to arrive.

The utility forward, Mick Cassidy, and the Academy player, Mark Smith, will share

hooking duties and the match will mark the Wigan debuts of two Australian signings, Brett Goldspink and Greg Florimo.

Sheffield, meanwhile, will be without their long-term injury victims - Steve Molloy, Michael Jackson and Matt Crowther - against Hull. Their absence will also stretch the club's resources for the tie against Salford, but the Eagles' coach, John Kear, believes that the quality of his squad this season will compensate for any lack of quantity.

"We want to go back to Wembley and defend the Challenge Cup like the proud people we are," he said. "If we can do that and find the consistency to make the top five, we can tick this off as a successful season."

Bradford Bulls, long-frustrated in their hopes of playing in a redeveloped Odsal, are considering a move to a new purpose-built stadium close by. The Bulls were the best-supported club in last year's Super League, but are desperate to improve their facilities.

TODAY'S NUMBER

79
The number of goals conceded by Kuwait's ice hockey team in two matches at the Winter Asian Games in South Korea. They lost 44-1 to China and 35-0 to Japan, during the course of which Japan had 136 shots on goal.

Rowe still Supposin a dream win

SUCH IS the hopeless optimism of most racehorse trainers that there are probably at least a dozen of them who believe that one of their horses is "the best hurdler in Britain". Richard Rowe, however, has the backing of the form book when he makes the claim for I'm Supposin.

An easy winner of the Kingwell Hurdle and then third behind two Irish runners - in the Champion Hurdle itself last season, I'm Supposin might be one of the favourites for the championship in an ordinary year. It is a measure of the present balance of power in hurdling that the title still quote him at 25-1 against, but then that same Cheltenham form which gives I'm Supposin bragging rights in Britain also shows how far he has to claim the ultimate prize. Thirteen lengths, to be exact, the distance which separated him from Istabraq last time around.

It is an enormous amount of improvement for any horse to make in just 12 months. Whether I'm Supposin has any realistic chance of doing so should become clear on Saturday, when he makes his sea-

BY GREG WOOD

sonal debut in the Agfa Hurdle at Sandown. The opposition should include last year's winner, Master Bevelled, who is not entered in the Champion, but remains one of the most reliable benchmarks around.

Success would see the 25-1 for Cheltenham evaporate, if only because each-way backers know that even Istabraq cannot

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Map: The Kyras
(Wolverhampton 3.30)
NB: Mary Jane
(Wolverhampton 2.30)

fill three places at once. In fact, the odds could well shorten before the weekend, as punters notice that, for a horse who started 6-1 second-favourite last time around, I'm Supposin seems significantly over-priced.

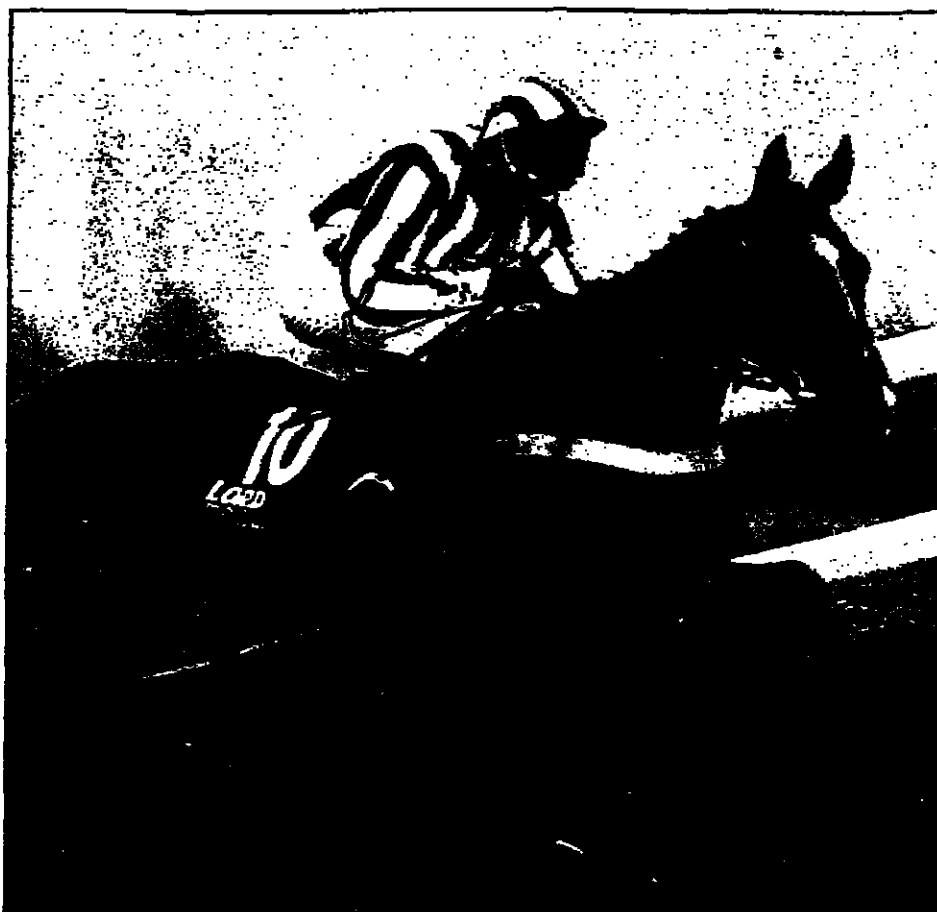
His long absence from the track may be a deterrent for some, but it is simply soft ground which has kept him at home. "We haven't run him because the ground has been too heavy, and if it stays dry, he will

run at Sandown," Rowe said yesterday. "He'll improve whatever he does, but I couldn't be more pleased with him."

I'm Supposin was the only horse who made any real attempt to take on Istabraq at Cheltenham, and paid the price for his effort when run out of second place close home. "Form students might say that he didn't stay on up the hill because something came and nicked second off him," Rowe said, "if I had a choice, I suppose I might prefer it if the Champion Hurdle was run at flat Wincanton, but I'd say that he's strengthened up since last year, and you can hardly say he's done much wrong in the two Champions he's run in."

It is a fair point, I'm Supposin having finished fourth in the same race two seasons ago. Unfortunately for Rowe, if the pattern continues, his runner will fill second place on 16 March.

Saturday will be an important day too for Lord Gylene, the 1997 Grand National winner, whose path back to Aintree leads through the Singer & Friedlander National Trial at Uttoxeter, as it did two years ago.



Lord Gylene warms up for Aintree at Uttoxeter on Saturday David Rogers/Allsport

Such was the majesty of his performance at Liverpool - he led throughout and won by 30 lengths - that many felt he could have won with 2nd more on his back. There was talk of him becoming the first since Red Run to win more than one National, but injury intervened, and his only race since was the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock in December, when he was a third fourth to Sunay Bay. "He'll be fitter this time," Steve Brookshaw, his trainer, said yesterday. "He'd got fed up

with not having any racing and was working quietly, but he's a lot more enthusiastic now."

On Tuesday, Brookshaw will discover the burden his horse will carry at Aintree. "He went up 10lb after he won the National, and another 13lb for having a year off," Brookshaw said. "Now he's come back down, but the way he's come back down, he can only go for valuable races. He'll need a couple more before the National and he's got a lot of weight on Saturday. I'll be happy if he gets placed."

Mellon dies

PAUL MELLON, the owner of the great Mill Reef, the winner of the Derby, Eclipse Stakes, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in 1971, has died, aged 91. Mellon, an American, also owned Gilt of Gold, runner up to Stargear in the 1981 Derby, Diamond Shoal, and Forest Flower.

Obituary. Review, page 6

HUNTER CHASE POINTERS

The increasingly competitive point-to-point circuit is having a bigger impact on jump racing under rules than ever. This new weekly column aims to pinpoint future hunter chase winners and horses who, like Teeton Mill, the Gold Cup favourite, may go on to even better things.

LARKHILL (30 Jan)

Gildred clocked an outstanding time for a five-year-old debutant in winning Division One of the 2½-mile Open Maiden in the fastest time of the day. Making headway to lead at

the third last fence, he went clear two out to beat Fair Wind by 2½ lengths. Fair Wind, always prominent, was far from disgraced in defeat, keeping on gamely and finishing 15 lengths clear of the third.

AMPTON (31 Jan)

Hatcham Boy won the Mens Open in the fastest time of the day. Always well there, he was ridden to lead two out and went away to score by four lengths from Avocet.

Ian Davies

MUSSELBURGH

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Other River: Deasourus record under Rules and in point-to-point and has completed the course just 3 times in 10 starts. Only form when distant 3rd to Tamarandis at Exeter (2007) novice hurdle, good in May.

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Moondigua heavily backed for Sandown

ANTE-POST UPDATE

BY IAN DAVIES

MOONDIGUA, THE seven-length winner at Warwick on his reappearance in January, was yesterday backed 7-2 with William Hill and the Tote down to a top-priced 9-4 with Coral for the Sandown Handicap Hurdle on Saturday. Martin Pipe, Moondigua's in-form trainer, also has Out Ranking, Rainbow Frontier and Nocksy in the race.

Pipe's Country Store landed a touch at Taunton yesterday. Country Store had not won for over four years and was coming back from a 295-day lay-off but was backed from 10-1 to 4-1 in the morning before drifting to 6-1 on course. Tony McCoy deserted Country Store to ride the eventual runner-up The Cockerton and it was left to Richard Johnson to get the winner home by a short-head.

Joe Mac, 2½-lengths second to Alexander Banquet in

the Festival Bumper last season, is the 3-1 favourite with Ladbrokes for the two-mile, 110-yards Supreme Novices' Hurdle, the opening race at the Cheltenham Festival on Tuesday, 16 March. Barton, the easy winner of the River Don Novices' Hurdle at Doncaster on Saturday, is the 5-8 favourite with Ladbrokes for the two-mile-five-furlong Royal Smal- lance Novices' Hurdle, on the second day of the Festival.

THE INDEPENDENT
day 27 Month 1998

I'm staying in Spain, says Juninho

FOOTBALL
BY ALAN NIXON

JUNINHO DISMISSED speculation yesterday that he is on his way to Middlesbrough in a £10m move from Atletico Madrid. Boro's manager, Bryan Robson, claimed at lunchtime he was confident the Brazilian would return to the Riverside Stadium, but Juninho later said he has no immediate plans to leave Spain. The midfielder did not rule out a move from the Vicente Calderon stadium in the summer, however.

"I am staying in Madrid. I don't know anything about a Middlesbrough press conference," he said. "But I am staying here for now. I'm staying for the summer. After that I don't know. My head is very confused. One minute I'm staying, one minute I'm going. It's been mad for two weeks."

The Arsenal pair Christo-

pher Wreh and Alberto Mendez are joining AEK Athens in Greece for the rest of the season. Wreh scored vital goals last season but has failed to make an impact in this campaign. Winger Mendez has also been squeezed out and the Spaniard knows his best chance of first-team football is away from Highbury.

Rob Jones will sign for West Ham today from Liverpool in a cut-price transfer and collect a lucrative contract. The former England right-back has agreed terms on a deal worth in excess of £1m a year to become the Hammers' third signing in the space of a week.

Last night the clubs were deciding on the fee, believed to

be around £300,000 - a moderate price because Jones is out of contract at the end of the season.

Mark Hughes is not for sale at any price, Southampton's manager, Dave Jones, said yesterday. The move would reportedly take the 35-year-old former Chelsea and Manchester United striker to aid their fight against relegation.

Sheffield Wednesday have asked the Football Association to review the nature of goalkeeper Pavel Srnicek's red card during Saturday's 1-0 defeat at home to Derby. Srnicek was sent off in the 57th minute by David Elzary for serious foul play, bringing down Derby's 19-year-old striker Malcolm Christie just outside the area. The charge carries an automatic three-match ban and means Srnicek will miss the FA Cup fifth-round tie at home to Chelsea or Oxford, the Premiership clash at Blackburn and a potential Cup replay.

Wednesday's manager, Danny Wilson, hopes to have the charge reduced to denying the player a goalscoring opportunity, which means a one-game ban.

Oxford have been boosted on the eve of their FA Cup fourth round replay with Chelsea by the news that a wealthy hotelier has been lined up as the club's prospective new owner.

The club's managing director, Keith Cox, resigned yesterday so as not to let allegations against him obstruct the cash-strapped club pursuing fresh investment, with a hotelier, Firoz Kassam, having signed an agreement giving him an option to buy former chairman Robin Hurd's 89 per cent shareholding.

Jürgen Kinsmann said yesterday that he planned to settle in the United States to give his child a normal life. Kinsmann said he was organising a match on 31 May to mark his retirement from ex-players from VfB Stuttgart and a team made up of former team-mates from Internazionale, Tottenham, Monaco and Bayern Munich.



The former England captain David Platt directs the players at Sampdoria before he parted with the Genoese club yesterday

Reuters

United acclimated as world's richest club

MANCHESTER UNITED are officially the richest club in the world. The Old Trafford outfit dwarf every other club, including the elite of Italy and Spain, when it comes to earnings power.

A survey conducted by the chartered accountants, Deloitte & Touche, in conjunction with the football magazine FourFourTwo showed that United's turnover in the season ended in 1997 was £37.94m. That figure is nearly £30m more than second-placed Barcelona, whose turnover for the same period was £53.87m.

The United chairman, Martin Edwards, claimed the club's commercial empire has been built on the back of Alex

Ferguson's transformation of the side in the 1990s.

"Obviously we run the club very much as a business, but everything emanates from the football side," Edwards said yesterday.

Gerry Boon, the chairman of Deloitte & Touche's Football Industry Team, said: "Manchester United is one of the most famous brands in the world. Despite having smaller crowds than some of its Italian and Spanish rivals, it still earns more income."

Matt Trench, the editor of FourFourTwo, said United's marketing success is quite remarkable. "It's a mark of Manchester United's success that they can sell replica shirts to

kids in the Far East who probably don't even know where Manchester is," he said.

The Premiership has five clubs in the world's 20 richest clubs, and after the Old Trafford side the most affluent English side are Newcastle United, in eighth place with a turnover of £41.13m. Liverpool are ninth on £39.15m, Tottenham 16th on £27.87m and Arsenal 20th on £27.16m.

These standings are based on financial results prior to the Gurners winning the Double and competing in the Champions League.

Rangers are the only Scottish team in the top 20, and they were ranked 14th with a £31.66m turnover.

Threat made by Branca to report Boro

MARCO BRANCA, the former Internazionale striker, has threatened to report Middlesbrough to Fifa, the game's governing body, over the club's refusal to allow him to resume his career with them.

Middlesbrough announced last month that the career of the 34-year-old was over because of a serious knee injury that had restricted him to 25 minutes of football this season. Branca, signed a year ago for £1m, scored on his Middlesbrough debut against Liverpool in the League Cup semi-final.

He scored nine more goals for the club including a hat-trick against Bury that helped Boro win promotion to the Premiership. However, since his knee surgery he has been a peripheral figure at the Riverside.

FOOTBALL'S RICHEST CLUBS

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| 1 Man Utd | £37.94m |
| 2 Barcelona | £35.87m |
| 3 Real Madrid | £35.66m |
| 4 Juventus | £33.22m |
| 5 Bayern Munich | £31.62m |
| 6 Milan | £27.48m |
| 7 Borussia Dortmund | £24.2m |
| 8 Newcastle Utd | £41.13m |
| 9 Liverpool | £39.15m |
| 10 Internazionale | £39.07m |
| 11 Flamengo | £37.42m |
| 12 Atletico Madrid | £32.38m |
| 13 Paris St-Germain | £31.7m |
| 14 Rangers | £31.66m |
| 15 Roma | £28.22m |
| 16 Tottenham | £27.87m |
| 17 Ajax | £27.8m |
| 18 Parma | £27.76m |
| 19 Lazio | £27.33m |
| 20 Arsenal | £27.16m |

Totals: annual turnover

Russia plan to play their European Championship qualifier against Andorra on 31 March in Vladikavkaz, just 35 miles from war-torn Chechnya, a Russian Football Union spokesman said yesterday.

Magpie Hamann in frame to face Leeds

NEWCASTLE HAVE successfully appealed to the German authorities to allow Dietmar Hamann to miss international duty and play instead in Saturday's Premiership match against Leeds. The 25-year-old was due to fly to the United States with his national side for two friendly matches. Newcastle will still be without Alan Shearer and Nikos Dabizas because of suspension.

Hamann, the former Bayern Munich player, signed by Kenny Dalglish for £4.5m during the summer, appears to have resolved his differences with Newcastle's manager, Rued Gullit, and has been a regular alongside Gary Speed in central midfield in the absence of the injured skipper Rob Lee.

"He's very eager to get back into the international squad, but he earns his money here," Gullit said. "He has to adapt to English football first and his chances with the national team will come from there."

Hamann is seen as a future German captain, but he recently expressed his disquiet at his lack of first-team chances at Newcastle, hinting that he could leave Tyneside at the end of the season.

The player insists that an interview he gave to a German magazine, in which he is said to have spoken of a dressing-room split, was taken out of context. "They wrote in England that I said something against the English players, that the English players were in one part of the bus or the dressing room and the foreigners in the other," he said in an interview in the Aston Villa programme.

"But I said that is normal because of the language, and the fact that we live with some of them at the hotel. I was taken out of context. But I have talked to the manager and told him there was never a problem with the other players. There has never been a problem - and there will not be in the future."

Betrayal of British league dream Carling returns to Harlequins

THE LIGHTS went out on the great British league dream yesterday, leaving English rugby juggling with another crop of political hot potatoes and Welsh rugby laying flat on its back in a sporting graveyard. Ninety nine per cent of the union population on either side of the Severn Bridge - the players, the coaches, the long-neglected supporters - found themselves betrayed by a tiny handful of selfish investors and failed administrators. Well done, gentlemen. Crack open another bottle of red.

Glanmor Griffiths, chairman of both the Welsh Rugby Union and the British league working party, officially rejected cross-border proposals by the English Premiership clubs at a meeting in Cardiff. After five months of diplomatic to-ing and fro-ing, it emerged that the

RUGBY UNION
BY CHRIS HEWETT

English had allocated their neighbours just five of the 30 places on offer: two clubs in a new first division and three in a second. Griffiths called the offer "demeaning", "dismissive" and "unacceptable". It was difficult to disagree.

But for all their principled resentment and righteous anger, Griffiths and his colleagues know they are now presiding over a domestic civil game on the very brink of collapse. The refusal of Cardiff and Swansea to have anything to do with the WRU Premiership has brought the competition to its knees; it cannot attract an audience, let alone a big-money sponsor. Griffiths wants to open talks with Ireland and Scotland in an

effort to launch a Celtic competition, but all the crowd and television interest is centred on the glamour pussies to the east, not the commoners to the north and west.

Neither of the rebel Welsh clubs are remotely interested in going home, as it were, and their place in the anarchic scheme of things remains an intractable problem for both the WRU and the Rugby Football Union. The Welsh, who have just slapped a writ on Swansea for repayment of £1m the St Helens club has no means of finding, will decide next month whether to suspend or expel both teams from the union - a move that could render half the current national squad unavailable for Test rugby under International Rugby rules.

Meanwhile, Twickenham is contemplating the prospect of

increasingly punitive IB fines over the programme of unsanctioned matches involving Cardiff, Swansea and all 14 top-flight Allied Dunbar Premiership outfits; the English have committed themselves to another full season of rebel matches. Had the English club owners dismounted their high horses and agreed to an all-inclusive conference-based tournament for next season, the problem would have been solved at a stroke.

It was too much for Terry Coburn, the director of rugby in Wales, who confessed yesterday to a feeling of "utter despair".

The national team coach, Graham Henry, vented: "Common sense and logic will prevail eventually. Not that I would want to put a timescale on that."

SPORT APPEARS to be littered with reincarnations. The latest was at the Stoop Memorial Ground yesterday when Harlequins unveiled their latest recruit - the former England captain, Will Carling, who has signed to play for them until the end of the season.

It only seems like 13 months ago that Carling was walking out of the ground and the game, when he was £100,000 contract. But since then, amid a welter of untimely publicity about his private life, it appears Carling began to suffer cold turkey for the liniment, sweat, and bonhomie of top club rugby.

"We come down to watch Harlequins once or twice," said Carling, now 33, whose last match was in December 1997. "Then three or four weeks ago

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

I went into the changing-room after a game and I just enjoyed the atmosphere. It was the first time I have missed that side of things.

"I feel there is a little bit of unfinished business for me. I'd like my time at Quins to end on a high note." As opposed to the unhappy departure last January when he fell out with the then director of rugby, Andy Keast, and turned his back on the club after 152 games.

Carling, who won 72 England caps in the centre for England, stressed there was no financial motivation behind his decision. "It was coming back for that I would have taken one of the other offers I have had. Money is not the reason," he said. "About 10 days ago Quins

coach, Zinzan Brooke, who had been winding me up for a few months about playing again, came down with Bernie McCall, his assistant, and John Gallagher, the manager, and we had a chat. They asked me if I was interested in re-signing. I was flattered to be asked by people of that calibre."

Carling went away to Japan on business, had his fitness tested and liked what he was told. He made up his mind, according to his agent, Chris Bromage, while he was on level seven of the Nintendo game Super Mario Land.

Now, 368 days after he left, Carling is back at the club, although his earnings are not expected to exceed £3,000 per match and could be less. Gallagher said the rest of the Harlequins staff were unanimous in welcoming Carling's return.

And, according to the manager, Carling has lost little of his fitness. "When you have spent the best part of 12 years at the top you don't lose that conditioning," said the former All Black. "I would say he is about 80 per cent fit right now." Carling claims he is 13 kilos lighter than when he last played for Quins.

Quins have an Allied Dunbar Premiership match at home to leaders Leicester on Saturday, but Gallagher was extremely cagey about whether he would be drafted into the side so soon.

"This isn't marketing hype," said Gallagher. "This is a rugby decision. If we have injuries then, as a member of the squad, he will go in. But we will not put him on the bench this weekend simply as a publicity stunt."

Service faults fail to stop Kournikova

ANNA KOURNIKOVA, still attempting to overcome a problem with her serve that affected her at the Australian Open, beat Germany's Anke Huber 7-6 (7-4) 6-0 in the first round of the Pan Pacific Open yesterday.

The Russian, seeded No 6, opened with a pair of double faults in her first two service games in a set where both players managed to win just one service game each.

"I wasn't nervous at all, but I had to adjust to the surface, which is really quick. I was just trying to hit the ball hard and go for my shots," she said.

In only her second visit to Japan, Kournikova, who overcame her singles disappointment to win the doubles title in Australia with Martina Hingis, says she feels more relaxed this time.

"Winning the doubles in Australia has given me confidence, but it hasn't changed much. I still need more experience, but the more matches I play the higher my ranking will get."

TENNIS

Huber let Kournikova off the book in the first set with a string of unforced errors. None was more costly than the double fault which the German served at 4-4 in the tie-break.

Kournikova, ranked 12th in the world, improved her serve in the second set and cruised to an easy win.

The seventh seed, Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, had a much easier time in her first-round victory over Magui Serna of Spain which she won 6-2 6-1.

Coetzer will face Els Callens of Belgium in the second round. Callens won 6-3 6-1 against the American Kimberly Po.

At Sugiyama of Japan eased past Shi-ling Wang of Taiwan 6-3 6-3 to place her in an extremely testing second-round confrontation with Hingis, the second seed.

Hingis, the top seed Lindsay Davenport, the third seed Jana Novotna and Monica Seles all had first-round byes.

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'Hoddle will not be out of work for long. His self-belief and inner strength will soon bring him back to the fore'

A sad and unnecessary departure

GLENN HODDLE, Terry Venables, Graham Taylor and Bobby Robson have all experienced the impossibility of managing England.

Robson went grey resisting imprecations to Allah for him to go. Taylor woke up wringing in sweat from the tension of the job. Venables walked when some of his employers went "wobbly" on him at the thought of his impending court appearances. Now Hoddle has got the bullet in the wake of the controversy generated by his musing over karma. Even Tony Blair joined the chorus - and Tony Banks maintained the pressure yesterday.

It is not a healthy state of affairs when Prime Ministers comment on football coaches, no matter what the subject matter. It tells us more about the current Government than the high-profile nature of our national game. Certainly Hoddle's



Graham Kelly, the former chief executive of the Football Association, says that the deposed national manager has been treated unfairly

goose was well and truly cooked by this new and unwelcome trend. Traditionally the Football Association does not sack its international managers. Sir Alf Ramsey was the only previous incumbent to receive his P45, though Graham Taylor was left with no option to resign after England's failure to qualify for USA 94, and the insecure Don Revie felt he pre-empted dismissal by decamping

to the desert in 1977. But times are changing. Lancaster Gate is very sensitive. Hoddle's easily prompted spiritual reflections completed a trio of public relations fiascos.

First, he upset Lancaster Gate with his employment of the faith healer, Eileen Drewery. Then he published his World Cup diary, to the consternation of the football reporters who contended he was guilty

of misinformation in France. Neither was sufficient to cost him his position. But the latest episode made his departure inevitable. Results were only average and he had "previous". The Football Association found it impossible to maintain its hitherto lukewarm support.

I do not believe he should have gone yesterday. In reality, his book revealed very little. Mrs Drewery did no harm, although Hoddle should have realised how insular football can be. And, as for the hereafter, surely we live in an age and a country of free expression, no matter how unorthodox.

After all, why did he call the Times reporter, Matt Dickinson, last week? It was his natural inclination, rather than part of the FA's express policy of making Hoddle more media friendly. He was to shed his image of aloofness and

arrogance, encouraged by conducting individual interviews with the main reporters. And inadvertently - just as I did - he gave his enemies a stick to beat him with.

Anyone who takes the England job becomes a major celebrity overnight. He is never just the coach responsible for winning matches for the country. He is expected to fulfil a wider PR role for the game. He promotes the FA's policies on social issues such as anti-racism. Thus it is wholly unrealistic to restrict his utterances to the sweepers system.

Moreover, the new open-door policy was always doomed to failure. Once the pack has scented blood, it will not be distracted until the ultimate vengeance has been exacted.

Whatever your opinion, that is a fact of media life as we approach the new millennium. Bobby Robson was

mocked for his absent-mindedness; Hoddle has his grammar ridiculed unfairly.

It is alleged that Glenn has lost credibility with the players. Yet if the FA really sounded out senior members of the England squad, I find that almost as disturbing as the political interventions we have seen this week. Will future England coaches have their position so undermined?

As ever, continuity is paramount. Howard Wilkinson needed little encouragement to take over. He has sought to expand his influence for some time now. The FA's technical director, the only Englishman to win the Premiership, has always believed the Under-21s should come under his authority; Hoddle has hung on to them because he wanted the last link before promotion to the full squad.

A few incautious words have

resulted in the departure of a decent man, the most gifted, if not the shrewdest, former player to manage England.

It is all very sad and unnecessary. Howard Wilkinson has proved himself adept at negotiating a path through the labyrinthine corridors of power at Lancaster Gate. A number of observers criticised his decision before he became technical director, so he will have much to prove but little to lose.

Wilkinson's short period in charge of the development of our elite young players won immense goodwill from his former colleagues in management. That will now stand him in good stead as he faces the ultimate challenge.

Hoddle will not be out of work for long, though. His self-belief and much-criticised inner strength will soon bring him back to the fore.

'Horrible job' may prove hard to fill

THE SUCCESSION

Some leading contenders have already pleaded not to be considered for the England vacancy. Phil Shaw assesses the names left in the hat

VISITORS TO the Football Association headquarters are struck by the number of trophies on display for a nation whose only serious silverware remains the World Cup in 1966. One of the exhibits is presumably the poisoned chalice of the England managership - but, after the sour taste left by Glenn Hoddle's reign, who will drink from it now?

Howard Wilkinson will take temporary control against France next week, but Bryan Robson ruled himself out yesterday while Manchester United made a pre-emptive strike against any move for Alex Ferguson.

Assuming that remains the situation, the FA could be left to choose between the old guard, Bobby Robson or Terry Venables; a relatively unproven generation led by Peter Reid and John Gregory; and two coaches with little or no top-level playing experience, Wilkinson and Roy Hodgson.

When the post became available after Graham Taylor's demise five years ago, Hoddle was among those who reflected on the pressures. "Managing England should be the best job in the world, but it has become a horrible job," he said. "Perhaps we should be looking for a divorcee with no kids."

Wilkinson commented simultaneously that he valued his family too much to leave Leeds for England, warning that anyone who took the job had to "fight the system and the press from day one".

A skin as thick as a rhino's hide must therefore be added to the qualifications needed by Hoddle's long-term successor. Bobby Robson has already declared his readiness to return, while Venables is still rated highly by those players who remain from his Euro 96 semi-finalists. But at almost 66 and 56 respectively, it is hard to see either in any other than an interim role, perhaps grooming his eventual replacement.

Therein lies a problem if the FA sticks to its practice of appointing Englishmen only - 12 of the 20 Premiership managers could be instantly discounted. Jim Smith and Ron Atkinson would probably be regarded as too old (and, anyway, Big Ron reckons he would only consider it on a player-manager basis), Dave Jones and Danny Wilson as too young. Harry Redknapp has not achieved enough and Bryan Robson feels he is not ready, which leaves just Brian Kidd and Gregory.

As one who has just begun his career as a No 1 at Blackburn, Kidd is a non-starter, while the impressive Gregory is surely one for further down the line; this time last year he had not even left Wycombe for Aston Villa. Though some arm-twisting may yet be done on Bryan Robson, it is questionable whether his record at Middlesbrough (two promotions and one relegation on a big transfer budget) merits the effort.

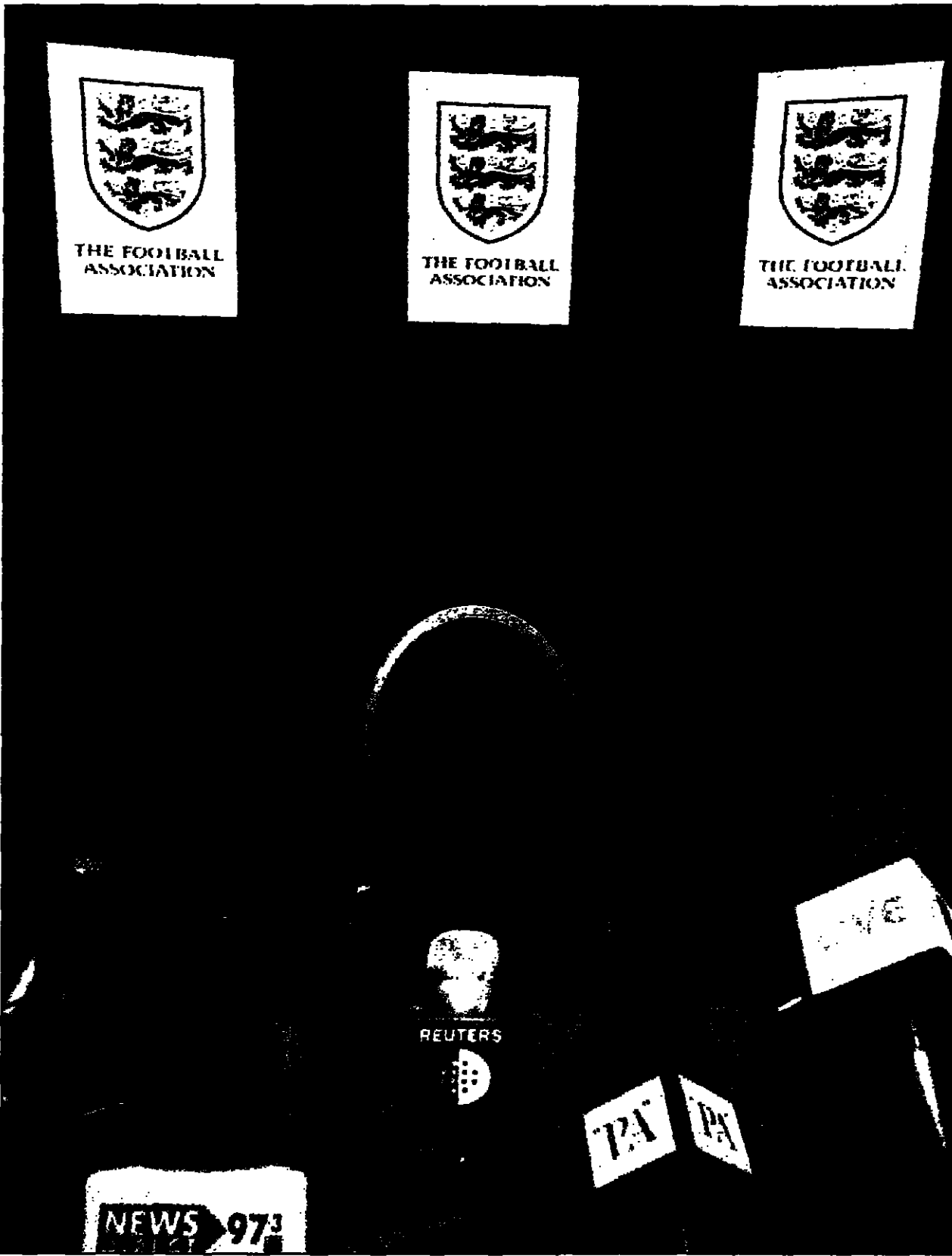
Reid, of First Division leaders Sunderland, has the requisite playing background, having been the ball-winning foil to Hoddle in the 1996 World Cup. He has managed a club to

fifth in the Premiership, no mean feat given what has since befallen Manchester City. And he is also a straight-talking Scouser, more of a "calm down" man than a karma man, if possibly too proletarian for some FA tastes. Non-football opinion put the skids under Hoddle; how would it react to clips of Reid in expletive overdrive from the TV documentary *Premier Passions*?

Kevin Keegan, chief operating officer at Fulham, might be the people's choice, as Brian Clough was in the 1970s. But the evidence of Newcastle was that Keegan does not possess Clough's tactical understanding, even if he has belatedly acknowledged the need for better defensive organisation. Moreover, the image of his emotional outburst against Ferguson during the title run-in of '96 bodes ill for the pressure cooker atmosphere surrounding the England job.

As for Wilkinson, he took Leeds from promotion to the championship in three seasons, but is also remembered for selling Eric Cantona cheaply and buying Tomas Broin and Lee Sharpe expensively. As the FA's director of coaching, Wilkinson also has the advantage of being in situ.

With the Under-18s he has worked with Michael Owen, among others who will be part of the future England set-up. Against that, his tendency to ramble and philosophise in press conferences would risk antagonising the media as Taylor and Hoddle did.



The scene at London's Royal Lancaster Hotel last night prior to the FA press conference

Peter McDiarmid

Hodgson can boast an even more apposite CV. He is acquainted with the rigours of the international game, having led Switzerland to USA 94, and did reasonably well at Internazionale. He is also available.

Again, though, the FA must balance pluses and minuses. At Blackburn, who sacked him before Christmas, some players thought Hodgson too cerebral.

Remembering the communication chasm between the England players and Taylor, a former lower-division full-back, the fact that Hodgson never played League football would count against him.

Were the search to be broadened to include non-English candidates, and the FA set its sights as high as possible, Ferguson and Arsene

Wenger would be high on the hit-list. Apart from his trophy-laden tenure at Old Trafford, Ferguson gained experience at international level when he took Scotland to the '86 World Cup after Jock Stein's death.

The 57-year-old United manager has intimated a desire to retire in the next few years. Yet the "part-time"

nature of the England job might appeal to him as a final challenge. His hard-nosed handling of the media would also preclude the kind of crises into which Hoddle and Taylor stumbled.

Meanwhile, Wenger's Double with Arsenal makes him the obvious foreign candidate, albeit one whose background is exclusively in club football.

Overseas manager would be a first

THE FOREIGN CONNECTION

BY CLIVE WHITE

GIVEN THE glaring absence of any obvious successor to Glenn Hoddle from among the ranks of English managers, attention will, inevitably, turn abroad. The success of Arsene Wenger at Arsenal and Gianluca Vialli at Chelsea has taught the English to be much less sceptical of foreign coaches, but appointing one as national coach would set a precedent not only for England but for any major footballing power around the world.

None of the game's leading countries has ever put a foreigner in charge of its national team. While Italy, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands and have all had foreigners in charge at their clubs and quite often their leading clubs, the national federations of those countries have never been able to bring themselves to appoint an outsider. For a country as proudly nationalistic as England to do so would be unthinkable. It would also be an indictment of coaching in this country.

Bobby Robson, the former England manager, for one does not think it will nor should happen. "I just don't think you would get the same commitment from a stranger, from a Chilean or someone, coming into England as manager as opposed to a bone fide Englishman who's served his country at various levels of the game," said Robson. "I don't think you'd get the same attachment, the same love and devotion and passion and diehard spirit that you've got for your own country. You're going to war, aren't you? You fight for your country, you fight to the end. I can't quite see a foreigner quite doing that."

"I definitely think we've got men to do the job, the question is whether you can persuade them. I'm not saying Glenn got the job because other people turned it down, but there were other people in the frame when Glenn finally took the job who didn't fancy it because, well, they didn't need a hole in their head."

The appointment of foreign national team coaches has hitherto been exclusively the preserve of emerging nations, who lack sufficient expertise in their own country, and as such their success has only been relative. It was significant that at Euro 96 only one of the 16 finalists - Switzerland with the Portuguese Arthur Jorge - was coached by a foreigner.

Ironically, two of the most successful "foreigners" have been Englishmen - Jack Charlton with the Republic of Ireland and Roy Hodgson with Switzerland - but no major championship has been won by a country coached by a foreigner.

Wales (Mike Smith and Bobby Gould) and Northern Ireland (Lawrie McMenemy) have gone down the same route but have yet to venture beyond the British Isles for a coach.

If the Football Association were to look "abroad" they would almost certainly look further afield. There is a small precedent in as much as it was the FA's intention to appoint the Frenchman Gerard Houllier as technical director, the post now held by Howard Wilkinson, but the now Liverpool manager was unable to free himself before France 98.

Reid is choice of City headhunters

THE PITCH

Sunderland manager has the necessary respect within game says specialist recruitment firm. By Nick Harris

PETER REID, the manager of First Division Sunderland, should be at the top of the Football Association's list of candidates to replace Glenn Hoddle as the England coach, according to a specialist with a City headhunting firm.

The FA's main priority, said Terry Rickaby, a management consultant with Fifth Ross Martin, should be to appoint a man who commands respect within the English game. "I'd forcefully advise the FA to go around English managers and canvass opinion," he said. "They're the people who know the game and you need to get the entire establishment behind the new management."

Rickaby added that the manager should, above all, be able to achieve results and maintain players' motivation and confidence. "This time they need to try to identify someone with a successful track record," Rickaby said. He added that Hoddle's problems with the media have not helped him, and said any successor must be able

to deal with similar pressures. Asked for candidates who might fit the bill, Rickaby said he would advise the FA to look for a young, up and coming manager, not necessarily in the Premier League.

"I'd suggest Peter Reid. He has the respect, he played for his country and is proud to have worn his country's shirt." Of non-English managers, Rickaby added, Alex Ferguson was the most obvious candidate. "He has a great case and has been a great servant to the English game. It's one job that might whet his appetite."

Advertising agencies approached by *The Independent* came up with a variety of ways of attracting candidates for the job. J Walter Thompson's advert said: "Applicants with a tendency to overburden the pre-

match period with talk of the other side need not apply." The recruitment pitch added: "You will also be required to forge a strong working relationship with the big man upstairs, whoever he may be. (Since Mr Kelly stood down)."

"Must be prepared to work amidst the inevitable disruption caused by the dismantling of Wembley's party gates. The new coach should also desist in the practice of informing players they are required for squad training by opening phone calls with the words 'Please join the congregation at Bisham Abbey'."

The advert finishes with the warnings "Do not regard this as a job for (this) life" and "Must be able to work Sundays." Mark Week, of Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper, said the FA

should look for someone with a balanced personality. "It's Hoddle's unceasing search for a personality that's been getting him into trouble," he said. Saatchi and Saatchi, who produced the advert on the right, played on the subject - reincarnation - that landed Hoddle in his most serious trouble to date.

Donald MacLeod of Korn Ferry, another City headhunting firm, said: "Clearly the biggest pitfall [for an England manager] is that that person is always in the public eye. Whether an overseas manager would be appropriate for the job - even in the current global climate of the game - would be entirely for the FA to decide. MacLeod said, but he added: "I think I would first want to scour the English field [of candidates]."

Whoever ends up as the next coach should be less naive in dealing with the media and avoid talking about non-football subjects, Max Clifford, the PR expert, said yesterday. Had Hoddle been a client of his, Clifford said, he would have been told never to talk to journalists about subjects such as reincarnation. "If only Hoddle was as skilful at explaining himself as he was with his feet, he wouldn't have had these problems," he said. He added that Hoddle had not only made the mistake of airing his opinions, but his follow-up damage limitation exercise had been poorly executed. "He didn't limit the damage," Clifford said. "If anything he made it worse."

The next England coach, it seems, needs to have a first-class pedigree in management, be popular with the public, be able to lead the team to major triumphs, have a good rapport with the media and be relaxed (but work well under pressure). The new man's nationality is less important. As long as he's English, presumably.

BILL SHANKLY.

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How Saatchi & Saatchi would seek a new England coach

هكذا من الناحية

Royal Lancaster Hotel, which begins: "With regret the FA and Glenn Hoddle have today agreed to terminate Glenn's contract".

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

al director Wilkinson
ricity

GLENN'S GAFFE
December 1997:

May 1998:

June 1998:

August 1998:

January 1999



Heads, you win

Charles and Oliver. Cavalier and Roundhead. Monarchist and Republican. The defining opposites of English constitutional history. So what were their spin doctors up to when they commissioned these engravings?

Merely one tyrant eliminating another by means of execution: that was Robespierre's dismissive judgement on the death of Charles I at the will of Cromwell. He refused to see any parallels with the impending execution of Louis XVI at the hands of the noble, democratic French Revolutionaries. Louis XVI himself, on the other hand, had always been presciently fascinated by the character of Charles I. As a small boy at Versailles he had recited a prepared speech to the historian David Hume; later, Hume's account of the unfortunate British monarch became one of his favourite studies and, in preparing himself to die in January 1793, he took as his model Charles I's conduct on the scaffold nearly 150 years previously.

At the beginning of the 19th century, however, William Hazlitt reported a conversation among his friends in which all agreed that Oliver Cromwell "with his fine, frank, rough, plump face, and wily policy" was the only statesman in history they would wish to have seen. Towards its end, Sir Richard Tangye, a rich industrialist, admired Cromwell so much on grounds of his religious principles and his integrity that he dedicated much of his wealth to forming a private Cromwell museum, packed with books, pictures and artefacts, at his estate in Cornwall.

All these attitudes indicate how far the reputations of both Charles I and Cromwell have always been adapted to suit the purposes of the time - or the individual. Long before there were spin doctors, there were propaganda warriors: reds (the royal colour), greens (the Leveller colour), and infinite shades in between. Now, by historical coincidence, the 350th anniversary of Charles I's execution (30 January) is found to occur within a few months of the 400th anniversary of Cromwell's birth (25 April). Two new exhibitions, the Queen's Gallery with Charles I: King and Martyr; and the Museum of London with Cromwell: Wars and All, commemorate the respective events. And, in a sense, the propaganda war is continued.

The position of the Queen's Gallery is significant: it is tucked in beside Buckingham Palace

and you reach it by what I always think of as a servants' entrance - although "subjects" may be a more appropriate word. The interior, however, houses a rich jewel of an exhibition which no one interested in the connection of art to politics should miss. It is also a fascinating exposition of the uses of propaganda. (You can't help noticing, in this connection, that the official copy-right line on the excellent catalogue by Jane Roberts, Keeper of Prints and Drawings at Windsor, is "Royal Collection Enterprises Ltd".)

The position of the Cromwell exhibition at the Museum of London is also significant. London, as the visitor quickly learns at the entrance, was always heavily - and influentially - in favour of the parliamentary side in the Civil War. We are encouraged to think of Cromwell as London's local hero (no doubt planned events at Huntington, his birthplace, and Cambridge, which he represented as MP, will stress their own connections). This is an excellent, well-planned exhibition in which a great deal is interestingly displayed in a small space, having as its kernel

Charles I, hereditary King, it might be thought that his royal birth alone was sufficient for at least the first part of the exercise. The death of the gorgeous, brilliant Henry, Prince of Wales in 1633 left the 10-year-old Charles, Duke of York, very short for his age and a stammerer, as the heir. None of this deterred the image-makers: in many cases, engravings of the late Prince were simply made over to do for the next one, and the trappings of the title were left in, although there was a four-year gap before Charles's creation as Prince of Wales, presumably for mourning's sake. Charles I's height could not even be guessed at from the pictures at the Queen's Gallery.

Charles's marriage to Henrietta Maria, Princess of France, shortly after his accession in 1625, involved new image-making. Henrietta Maria was tiny, very dark, with terrible teeth. In the royal pictures she emerges as exquisite, almost as lustrous as the great pearls round her neck and at her ears. She also provided, very quickly, children. Here, as in Hendrick Pot's charming study of Charles I, Henrietta Maria

for which the war had presumably been fought. Increasingly, Cromwell's inclination moved towards the notion of restoring kingly government, on the grounds that the people knew their duty to the king and he knew his to them. In short, a protector had an unnatural base of power; and a king had a natural one. By 1657, eight years after the execution of Charles I, and the formal abolition of the monarchy, rumours that Cromwell would ascend the throne as Oliver I were rife, and the evidence is that he did seriously contemplate it, until some of his old friends from the Army persuaded him either that it was against the will of God, or that the Army would not wear it, or both. Eighteen months later Cromwell was dead, so we can never know whether he would have changed his mind.

Cromwell's royal transformation act, so surprising to those who think of him only as the Arch-Republican, is illustrated at both exhibitions. One engraving, by Peter Lombart, sometimes known as *The Headless Horseman* (1658) owing to its Vicar of Bray-like changes of subject, shows Cromwell in regal pose on a king's horse with sword, sash and attendant curly-headed page or squire. The same pose - in fact, the same engraving - was subsequently used to represent Charles I posthumously and Charles II, Cardinal Mazarin and Louis XIV. In real life Cromwell made the protectoral style as close to the royal as he could - using many of the art treasures of Charles I at Hampton Court.

Ironically enough, in death it was Cromwell who was buried with all the pomp of a king, as pictures and a surviving hatchment show. The best that the supporters of Charles I could do, denied any kind of state funeral in 1649, was to turn him into a martyr who had died for the Anglican religion. An engraving by Wenceslaus Hollar shows Charles I with his own crown in the dust and a heavenly crown approaching him.

What is it about monarchy? After the Restoration, Cromwell's body was dug up, and ceremoniously executed in its turn. Although plenty of people in England today are descended from Cromwell, there are none who bear his name. When the last descendant in the male line, one Olivia Cromwell, applied to George III to preserve her name on marriage, the King was heard to mutter: "No, no more Cromwells." Royal Collection Enterprises Ltd, on the other hand, is symbolically flourishing.

BY ANTONIA FRASER

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Huddle in the dock

Sir: The argument over Glenn Hoddle's comments has wide-ranging human rights implications. He has made a statement of his religious belief, and as a result may be sacked from his job.

I suspect that this could not happen in the US, where freedom of religion and freedom of speech are enshrined in the constitution, and it would seem to be in defiance of the UN Declaration of Human Rights (Articles 18 and 19 on freedom of conscience and freedom of expression).

CHRIS BROOKING
Leeds

Sir: Glenn Hoddle, it is alleged, has said that disabled people must have sinned in a previous life. How do we know he is wrong?

Today many people believe that what they believe is true for them and that it is what they believe that matters. What is particularly alarming is that Mr Hoddle is condemned for believing something that is apparently unpalatable and unkind to others rather than for believing something that is not true. We apparently now live in a world in which truth is secondary to what is palatable.

As a Christian I believe that what Mr Hoddle has said is untrue. My belief in a truth that I believe has been revealed gives me a view of how the world works that makes me sure that what Mr Hoddle believes is wrong. This episode is simply the symptom of a society which appears to have little agreed value base and little concern to get involved in the rather messy business of trying to discern what is true.

Canon MARK BRYANT
Coventry

Sir: My eight-year-old son has muscular dystrophy. Yesterday he said to me: "You know this man who says disabled people have been naughty. Is that why I am disabled?" David Aaronovitch (Comment, 2 February) may see Glenn Hoddle's views as eccentric. I see them as offensive and destructive.

LUCY BAILY
London SW14

Sir: As a person who is disabled (I don't hear very well), I welcome Glenn Hoddle's view that I am paying the price for sins I have committed in previous lives. Perhaps I've come a long way already, and maybe I might make it to Heaven sooner than some of my able-bodied fellow-beings.

HILARY MARSH
London SW19

Sir: As a Buddhist I am used to the problems relating to the arguments regarding Karma. Very often the issue is difficult to resolve given the language of blame used by the majority of people.

The varying levels of Karma mean that disabled people of course must have done something extremely good in order to be born as human beings.

The tabloid press has once again latched onto the sound-bite instead of the issue.

ROB WILLIAMS
Canterbury

Sir: Glenn Hoddle's comments about disability deserve to be set against his actions on behalf of disabled people.

While in Moldova for the World Cup in September 1998, Mr Hoddle spearheaded a highly successful public appeal to help disabled girls living in appalling conditions in the Hincesti orphanage. Mr Hoddle, the England squad and the Football Association together donated £20,000 to relieve the plight of the girls.

Thanks to this support, the European Children's Trust was able to save more than twenty lives that winter.

KATE PIERCE
Campaign Manager
The European Children's Trust
London EC4

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Independent Eye No 3: Insurance assessors examine the Long Gallery of Holland House, a Jacobean mansion in west London, after its destruction by an incendiary in 1940. This week's series of photographs comes from 'An Independent Eye: A Century of Photographs' (Sutton Publishing, £20) Hilton Getty

Sir: Is it millennial madness? A football coach is reviled by a prime minister for believing in reincarnation. Yes, he has offended many people. What religious belief does not? And an MEP has to resign for bringing from Amsterdam a pornographic video and minuscule amounts of cocaine and cannabis.

Mackenzie King ran Canada for years, a spiritualist taking advice from his dog. Lloyd George was a notable lecher. Winston Churchill was almost always drunk. Jack Kennedy set the pattern for White House shenanigans for Bill Clinton.

What qualities do we think necessary for statesmen, and football coaches? That they should be good, clever, even wise statesmen and football coaches. We must leave the gossip to magazines, private lives to their participants – and grow up.

RONALD MAJOR
Glasgow

Sir: The scorn and contempt with which one of the central beliefs of two of the world's great religions has been first distorted and then derided as "bizarre superstition" reveals an embarrassing ignorance and an arrogant disdain which has its roots in racial and cultural prejudice.

Glenn Hoddle might in future heed the advice of another beleaguered spiritual heretic who cautioned against casting pearls before swine.

SIERRA HUTTON-WILSON
Evercreech,
Somerset

Sir: Glenn Moore, your football correspondent, referred to Glenn Hoddle's unfortunate remarks as "gratuitously offensive". The belief expressed by Mr Hoddle is one of the core tenets of both the Hindu and Buddhist faiths. Am I then to assume that *The Independent's* position is that adherence to these faiths is also offensive?

BOB PINDER
London N22

Sir: The sick and vulnerable lying on trolleys; beggars on our streets; families desperately worried about their jobs and mortgages; the generation who saved this country from fascism expected to live on £75 a week and our Prime Minister appears on the Richard and Judy show. What have we done in a past life to deserve this?

CLIFFORD FULLER
Gloucester

Sir: What weight would the media attach to the thoughts of the Archbishop of Canterbury on the selection of players for the England football side? Should not the media give equal weight to Glenn Hoddle's religious views?

MAYNARD HALL
Wigton, Cumbria

Sir: So reincarnation is this country's fastest-growing religious opinion (Letters, 2 February). Not so. In the battle of the beliefs, the Hoddle squad barely dented the defences of the Premier Division top team – Political Correctness.

MAX BERAN
Didcot, Oxfordshire

Hidden ingredients

Sir: Nick Brown, the Minister of Agriculture, claims that new EU labelling regulations will mean that people can "consume food

that they know does not contain GMOs (genetically modified organisms), if that's what they want to do". ("Restaurants must identify modified food", 1 February). He must have been very badly briefed.

Last week Worcestershire Scientific Services revealed that a third of the 200 products they had analysed contained genetically modified soya or maize. Only one product mentioned the fact on its label, and most companies claimed not to know that their products contained GM ingredients. And if companies don't know, they will not label their products.

Furthermore, the EU labelling law does not cover all GM ingredients. Genetically modified oils and lecithin (a soya derivative), both present in much processed food, are exempt from the labelling scheme.

PETE RILEY
Food Campaigner
Friends of the Earth
London N1

Sir: Contrary to your article "Restaurants told to label modified food" Sainsbury's has never agreed to provide any information from its Reward Card database to the Government for any purpose.

In fact we think the idea is daft. We have never given any indication that we would co-operate with

such a scheme or give the Ministry of agriculture personal information about individual customers.

JASON STEINBERG
Senior Press Officer
J Sainsbury
London SE1

Slow the car down

Sir: I agree with Ben Plowden, Director of the Pedestrians Association, that a range of alternatives must be developed to match the range of needs which the private car satisfies (Letter, 30 January). In parallel to this, the impact of vehicles on our roads is due for taming. A 20mph speed limit is the key to a more people-friendly urban environment.

What we should be aiming for is a civilised use of vehicles, with a slower, safer and more even flow of traffic. The psychological effect of not expecting to be able to travel at any real speed would be enormous. More eye contact and interaction generally would help humanise our relationships as drivers and pedestrians. Drivers would be much more willing to keep the traffic flow moving by giving way to each other. Most signal-controlled pedestrian crossings could revert to ordinary zebra crossings. Lower speeds reduce accidents

and the damage to the human body when they do occur.

Children could walk or cycle to school without suffering the casualty rates which have confined them to cars in recent years. By reducing the differential between journeys by car on the one hand and by bus and bike on the other, people would be encouraged to use their cars less. Smoothing traffic flow with less braking and accelerating would reduce pollution levels.

The 20mph speed limit would not be cost-free – there is no such thing as a free lunch – but curbing the impact of traffic has an important part to play alongside curbing the numbers of vehicles on our roads.

MERVYN CURRAN
Oxford

Eating apes

Sir: The discovery that HIV comes from chimpanzees (report, 1 February) is further evidence of the dangers of Africa's escalating trade in meat from wild animals – known as bush meat. Now that the link with HIV has been established, more pressure than ever should be applied to ensure that governments throughout west and central Africa take action to control the timber trade and prevent the widespread killing of protected species.

Our investigations have shown how chimpanzees, along with other endangered species, are being hunted commercially on a daily basis. The meat, which is sold at prices above that of farmed species, is supplied to workers in logging concessions and distributed widely to markets in towns and cities. The growth of logging in this region has opened access to previously inaccessible areas and has been the main contributory factor in enabling this trade to flourish.

JONATHAN OWEN
World Society for the Protection of Animals
London SW8

The wrong economy

Sir: Fifteen thousand words in your 1 February issue on "the state of the world economy" and not one reference to these essential prerequisites of a healthy global economy: the environment and sustainable development.

Encouragingly, the articles do include reflections on social dimensions, highlighting the need to address the gross inequalities generated by existing financial and economic systems. However, there is host of long-standing evidence that present measures of economic and financial success are dangerously misleading if we are genuinely seeking to gauge human and environmental welfare.

Much economic "success" simply ignores the actual social and environmental costs – whether these are local or global. A key aim for the millennium must be to devise measures of progress that give a properly rounded picture. Such measures would show, for example, that the US economy is in grave danger of "defaulting" – on its obligations to stabilise carbon dioxide emissions, and that throughout the developed world, many patterns and elements of consumer spending are positively harmful. Are our "global financial architects" up to these challenges?

BERNARD PAYNE
Chester

School bags

Sir: You report (Health, 2 February) on how heavy school bags cause back problems. They are also a major reason why the campaign to get more children to walk to school, or bike or use public transport, is not working.

I weighed my 13-year-old daughter's school bag this morning. It weighed 12 pounds and she also had to take PE kit.

The main reason is that the old "classroom", where a class sits put and subject teachers come to it, has disappeared, as has the personal desk where books can be kept. There are two main reasons: the need to have "subject classrooms" full of posters and equipment to impress Ofsted inspectors; and the risk of vandalism to books and possessions not kept with the child at all times.

To save children's backs and quash the "school run" major changes are needed in the way schools work – not just new furniture.

EMMA TRISTRAM
Arundel, West Sussex

No joke

Sir: Few would disagree with James Rampton (The shape of Arts to Come, Comedy, 1 February) that there are many indifferent comedians today with an over-reliance on Star Trek and similar material, but his argument that gag-based comedy is dead has two major flaws.

You cannot rely on the anecdotal evidence of storytelling comedians and their agents. All comedians will happily criticise other comedy styles in an effort to validate their own. And whatever one thinks of the "provincial mega comedy clubs" and the "gagmeisters" that perform there, they are invariably packed with punters who are fully aware of what sort of comedy is on offer.

The beauty of modern comedy is that performers of all styles can grace the same stage on the same night, and the vast majority of audiences seem to know what James Rampton doesn't: it is not the style of the comedy that matters, it is the content.

KEVIN DAY
London SW16

Trouble and strife

Sir: No one in a marriage service says "I do" as the question to bride and groom is "Will you?" (Faith and Reason, 30 January). I always had enough trouble getting them to repeat "Till death do us part" instead of the AIF Garnett programme title.

The Rev JOHN FISHER
Wells, Somerset

No longer in the shadow of the King of Rock'n'Roll

Very Unusual Jobs Indeed

No 51: An Elvis Presley impersonator impersonator

"LET'S GET one thing straight," says Greg Thoms. "I'm not an Elvis impersonator. Elvis impersonators are two a penny. I impersonate Elvis impersonators. That's something quite different."

Umm... how is it quite different? "Well, Elvis is the most impersonated singer in the world, right?"

We suppose so. "Suppose so? Course he's the most imitated singer in the world! Who else ever gets imitated that much? Buddy Holly a bit, Edith Piaf a bit, Marlene Dietrich quite a bit, down among the drag acts... And I've even seen Jimi Hendrix badly imitated. But those are the excep-

tions. Only the King has spawned that many imitators! Right?"

Er, right... "Right. I mean, you never saw Cliff Richard being imitated, did you? Even Mick Jagger doesn't get imitated, except maybe by Mick himself. Yeah, every time the Stones play another final world tour, Mick has to get out his gear and see if he can still imitate himself!"

Greg Thoms guffaws and goes into a paroxysm of coughing. "Strewth, I shouldn't smoke the fags, I really shouldn't, but I can't give 'em up. Strange really – the only vice Elvis didn't have, and it's the only one I've got! What was I on about?"

The art of impersonating impersonators... "Spot on! So I was! Well, thing is

that all Elvis impersonators have developed certain tricks, certain ways of doing things that Elvis never had. They've exaggerated Elvis's movements into mannerisms. You see an Elvis impersonator moving in certain ways because that's how an Elvis impersonator moves, not because it was the way Elvis moved. Geddit?"

Yes, we think we get it. "Put it another way. Most people alive never saw Elvis. Not many saw him in the flesh, and a lot more never even saw him on TV or film. Right? Most people have not seen Elvis performing, or if they have, not more than a few seconds on film. Yet everyone instantly recognises an Elvis impersonation. You see someone hunch his shoulders, twist his hip, hood his eyes and make one leg

longer than the other, and you just know he's imitating Elvis. But how do you know?"



MILES KINGTON
"If you look quite like Elvis, it merely underlines the fact that you aren't him!"

Um... because of all those Elvis impersonators you've seen? "Right! You're on the button! People now know about Elvis from the impersonators! Sooner or later it was inevitable that someone should impersonate the impersonators – and that person is me!"

But in what way is an Elvis impersonator impersonator different from an Elvis impersonator?

"Good question. It shows you've been listening to what I've been saying. Now here's my answer. Because I'm five foot three, blond, with a bristling moustache."

It's true. Greg Thoms looks nothing like Elvis at all.

"Now, here's the hook. All Elvis impersonators attempt to look like Elvis. Many of them look more like him than they sound or move like him. I'm the first guy that said – to

bell with it, I sound like Elvis and I'm going to do the Elvis act even though I look nothing like him! And in a way, that works to my advantage. I get up on stage. People say, "This guy looks nothing like the King!" Then I start moving and singing, and I do move and sing like the King, so all at once people are saying, "Hey, this little blond guy is doing an amazing Elvis Presley act! He could be Elvis!" Well, there I have an advantage. If you look quite like Elvis, it merely underlines the fact that you aren't him. If you look nothing like him, it underlines how well you are impersonating him."

Isn't that a bit... post-modernist or something? "Yeah, probably. Probably ironic, too. Don't forget ironic."

Well, it is ironic to think that a short moustached blond guy should make his living out of perpetuating the Elvis tradition, isn't it?"

"Who's to say? After all, Elvis himself changed as well. He started out as a thin, brown-haired guy. He dyed his hair black, he ended up immensely fat, but he was always Elvis, no matter what shape. You know, if a guy who was immensely fat decided to be an Elvis impersonator and came on stage and did nothing but eat hamburgers and take drugs, who's to say it wouldn't be a great impersonation?"

But nobody would pay to see it. "Yeah, you're probably right... Well, excuse me, I got a show to do."

As we leave the dressing-room, he's grooming his moustache. I had never imagined what Elvis would look like with a small moustache before. Now that I have seen Greg Thoms, I still can't

PANDORA

JOURNALISTS AT *The Express* are buzzing with news of yet another new editor. This time the person being considered is someone with no formal journalistic experience, and he is expected to have the shortest editorship in *The Express's* history. Who could it be? None other than the boss of Virgin Radio, Mr Christopher Evans (pictured). For about four months, *Express* editor Rosie Boycott—who did a stint as guest editor of *Campaign*—has been trying to woo the breakfast presenter to edit one issue of the paper. Earlier this week, *The Mirror's* editor Piers Morgan, agreed to swap jobs with Mandi Norwood, editor of *Cosmopolitan*. Does this mean we'll see Rosie Boycott appearing in *Freak or Unique?* on TFI Friday?

SPEAKING OF *Cosmopolitan*, the celebrated bible of orgasm, the American division is planning to launch a junior edition. Hearst Magazines, the US publisher, recently confirmed that it has "been looking into the American teen market for some time". But how about the UK? Don't our teens need to be enlightened, too? Pandora tracked down a spokeswoman for *Cosmopolitan* in London who told her: "We haven't made any announcements about that at all." Funny enough, those exact words were then used when Pandora double-checked with Hearst in New York. Ten out of ten for co-ordination. Does this mean we can expect a joint launch?

THE CURSE of Mandelson would seem to have struck in Germany. Bodo Hombach, Minister without Portfolio and election strategist to Gerhard Schröder, has often been described as Mandelson's doppelgänger.

Sadly for Hombach, a case of the "Notting Hill" syndrome struck this week, with allegations that Hombach had used money from a company slush fund to buy his home. Hombach denies any impropriety over his house, bought 13 years ago. However, senior politicians are calling for his resignation.

Pandora contacted Peter Mandelson to see whether he could offer any advice for his German colleague, but was told that he would be unlikely to make any comment on the matter. "He is trying to keep a low profile at the moment" came the honest reply from Mandi's office.

THE TRADITIONAL sabbath dinner is usually an occasion when Jewish families get together and tuck into chicken soup and chopped liver. Last Friday night was no exception. Pandora was pleased to see 150 of the most influential people in the Jewish community—including Nathan Sharansky, Israel's Minister of Trade and Industry, Robert Rubin, the US Secretary of the Treasury, and Zelman Shoval, the ambassador of Israel to the United States—enjoying a traditional kosher meal at the World Economic Forum in Davos. The dinner included Pandora's favourite, gefilte fish. It was probably the most powerful sabbath dinner of the year. Unfortunately, Jackie Mason was not invited to be a guest speaker.

NOT EVERY Old Labour MP has an aversion to the Liberal Democrats. Despite the stance of a lack of interest taken by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, the icon of traditional Labour values, the Grimsby MP Austin Mitchell has got so close to the Lib Dems that he is even taking photos of them. Pandora spotted the veteran MP at last week's Lib Dem parliamentary party meeting snapping away merrily for his forthcoming book, *Parliament in Pictures*. Mitchell's presence was a source of great amusement but he found that his hosts made him more than welcome: "I sat through the first two items of the meeting and left before the more sensitive ones," he told Pandora, adding, "they were very friendly and co-operative." Hasn't Tony been trying to say this all along?

A MUSICAL of Zippertown is due to start in Hollywood in a fortnight. *Start*. Struck will take a "witty, raunchy, intelligent, hilarious and surprisingly emotional look" at the scandal. Of course, it was only a matter of time before such a production got under way. There is no shortage of musical material about President Clinton's liaison, with amusing song parodies that have been doing the rounds, such as "I let an intern go down on me" sung to the tune of Elton John's "Don't let the sun go down on me" and "Our love is here to stay", an adaptation of the Gershwin classic.

You can contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk

Too clever by centre-half



HUNTER DAVIES

In our celebrity culture, we quiz footballers and pop stars on favourite foods and sexual positions

rooms makes it hard for players to do other than confirm to the laddish, anti-intellectual norm. Gazza's drunken bouts, or John Hartson kicking humps out of other people—even those on his own side—are acceptable, whereas sitting in a corner of the dressing-room reading a book is not.

I remember, in the Spurs dressing room in the Seventies, how

Mike England, Spurs centre-half, was mocked—behind his back, of course; he was a big bloke—for having an unusual home. It was a one-off, architect-designed house instead of the usual off-the-peg Tudor estate house which most players, then and now, aspire to. He gave parties there, with butlers-serving champagne, and had guests from the non-football world. Very weird, so the rest of the lads thought. Pretentious or what?

In the current Chelsea dressing-room, Graeme Le Saux gets the piss taken for being an *Independent* newspaper sort of chap. Before him, Pat Nevin was ridiculed for going to art galleries and museums.

They go round the world, these modern footballers, but mostly they sit on the couch or in the hotel bedroom and play cards, ignoring what they might be doing or seeing. Most of them regret it later, but at the time, their managers like them to be blinkered, concentrating only on the next 90 minutes.

There are exceptions—but you have to be exceptional to get away with it. Cantona had some dopey ideas, but because he was brilliant

at his job, and also a foreigner, he was not mocked by his fellow players. At least, not to his face.

Hodde's thoughts have been objectionable, as well as dopey, but this is very rare, though many successful managers have been weird in their own particular ways. Bill Shankly was blinded to the point of being unbalanced by anything in life except football, taking his wife on honeymoon to watch Liverpool—or was it Tranmere?—reserves. Brian Clough had his minor dalliances, such as wearing carpet slippers to training, and major ones, like treating his players like children; but as long as he, like Shankly, was successful, none of that dalliance mattered. He got treated like a god.

It is our fault, in the end. We are just as dopey. In our celebrity culture, we ask pop stars and famous footballers about their favourite holidays, favourite foods, favourite sexual positions, if only as a way of filling up a cheap and easy question-and-answer column of the sort all papers now do. Then we throw in some weightier ones, such as abortion, the euro, reincarnation, fairies, space men, feng shui (what-

ever that is), and solemnly write it all down, as if a fab singer or fave footballer has any more insight on these subjects than the rest of us. But we love reading the answers. I read every one.

They of course then get carried away, as John Lennon did with his remarks about Jesus. They begin to think their views are interesting, not to say important. Even Mrs Thatcher, for all her O-levels and brilliant success, went potty in the end, spouting nonsense and spite, getting carried away with her own power and self-importance.

Hodde is, in fact, an exception, with his unusual views and self-delusions. Most players keep their heads down and their opinions to themselves. It's only later that you realise: "Yeah, what an intelligent person: how astute, despite the lack of formal education."

Take Gary Lineker and David Platt, for example. I'd like my younger daughter to come home with either of them. Or similar. As both of them are rounded, talented personalities. And clever, oh yes. It's a mark of being really clever, to survive having been a footballer.

This Government is more Old Labour than it thinks

KEN LIVINGSTONE
Middle England is ready for much more radical change and boldness from this Government

LAST NIGHT our shiny new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Stephen Byers, made his first Mansion House speech to an eager City audience waiting for assurance that the Mandelsonian agenda would be safe in his hands. A fair indication of his speech could be had from Andy Grice's pre-speech coverage in yesterday's *Independent*, which confidently predicted that it would anger left-wingers who, we were told, would see it as another attempt by the Government to abandon Labour's traditional commitments.

The "arch moderniser" Stephen was boldly to assert that wealth creation is more important than wealth redistribution, and one traditional old Labour MP was quoted as saying: "The tax and benefits system must be used for some redistribution of wealth. The fact is, if you are creating wealth you have got to use it in the most positive way possible, which means giving it to people of lower means."

But the idea that Labour has only just woken up to the fact that you need a dynamic economy to create both work for your people and wealth to sustain the physical and social infrastructure of society, is bizarre. Labour governments have always sought to try to regenerate the real economy.

In the past this was always seen as rebuilding the traditional manufacturing base that had invariably fared poorly during the intervening periods of Tory government. Now that our traditional manufacturing base has shrunk to such a small proportion of the British economy, Labour's emphasis is geared to producing a highly skilled workforce who can shift successfully from one sunrise industry to another as they rise and decline.

But this revelation that the nature of the British economy has changed

is not something that Labour has only recently awoken to. In the first months of Neil Kinnock's leadership of the Labour Party in 1983, he and I co-operated closely to co-ordinate the campaigns of the Labour Party and the Greater London Council which were emphasising the importance of building a "high-skill, hi-tech" economy both in London and nationwide. Neil Kinnock launched the GLC's campaign in 1984 with a speech in which he said: "Labour must become the party of production, not merely a party of redistribution".

Following my election to Labour's National Executive in 1987 I became a member of the Productive and Competitive Economy party, preparing Labour's economic policies for the 1992 election. Under Bryan Gould's chairmanship we reviewed the whole long history of Britain's economic decline and came up with a complete package of radical policies based on creating a highly educated workforce for modern, hi-tech industries.

I can't recall any meeting in the

two years the working party met at which anybody suggested that we could simply rely on redistribution of wealth to create the kind of society we wanted to see.

Nor is it the case that these views existed only in the rarefied atmosphere around the leadership. Throughout my 12 years in Parliament I have attended the weekly meetings of the Socialist Campaign Group of Labour MPs, where the followers of the true faith lurk in the primeval Labour undergrowth, and yet I have never heard anybody at any of our meetings oppose the need to create a modern, dynamic economy.

Our criticisms of successive Labour leaders have been about the levels of taxation and public spending and the scale of redistribution. No one has ever suggested, at any left-wing meeting I have ever been to, inside or outside Parliament, that wealth creation is not relevant to the politics of redistribution.

So what is the point of difference between what Stephen Byers said last night and traditional Labour values, that leads anyone to think that this is some significant shift in Labour Party policy? Perhaps it is the influence of the spin doctors. Here was a perfectly normal speech that could have been made by any Labour Trade and Industry secretary, including Tony Benn or Frank Cousins, but if it can be sold to the press as some redefining of Labour's traditional values, or—even better—as some subset to the "great project", then it takes on a new significance.

The Byers incident is in many ways typical of all that has happened in the projection of government policy. Since Labour came to power Gordon Brown has dramatically increased taxes, and after a slow start has begun the expansion of



Stephen Byers, the 'shiny new' trade and industry secretary

public spending to restore the damage done in the years of the Thatcher junta.

In the field of industrial relations, the introduction of a minimum wage and a basic package of trade union rights has begun to shift the balance of power in the workplace. Somewhat hesitantly a massive programme of constitutional change has begun which will lead to Britain becoming a devolved, decentralised and more democratic modern European state. Once the reforms to the House of Lords have been carried through, then the huge majorities in the House of Commons for a lowered age of consent for gay men and the banning of blood sports will no longer be thwarted by an outdated and undemocratic assembly.

Yet anybody who had done no more than glance at the headlines in British papers during this last year and a half or so would have assumed that the New Labour Government had firmly rejected a hundred years' tradition of fighting for social justice, as the spin doctors placed their de-

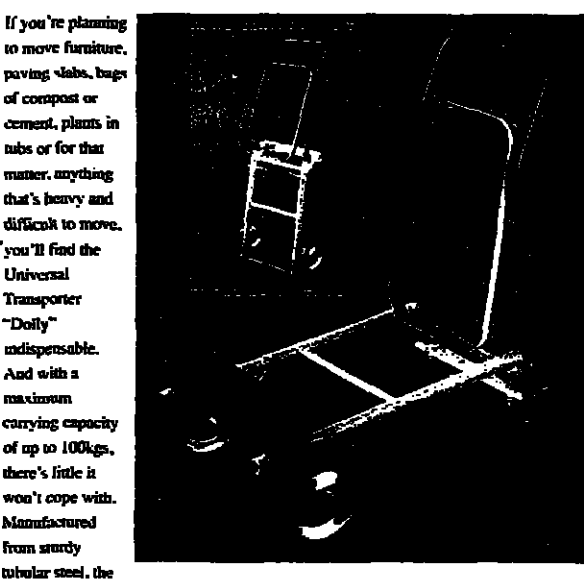
ceptive and demoralising gloss on virtually every action of the Government in order to appeal to some mythical mid-market tabloid reader in Chipping Sodbury.

In reality middle England is ready for much more radical change and boldness from this government. But then perhaps all our spin is really designed to reassure barons such as Rupert Murdoch—and Wall Street and other interests—than any domestic political constituency.

This does not mean, as anybody who has read the writings of Roy Hattersley can confirm, that there are not passionate debates going on inside the Labour Party about levels of tax and public spending and the degree to which wealth should be redistributed. These debates will continue. But unlike the great ideological schism that has torn the Conservative Party to pieces, Labour's rows will be about how far and how fast we are to go. If only we could retire the spin doctors, we'd also no doubt be a lot happier as we went about our business.

THE INDEPENDENT

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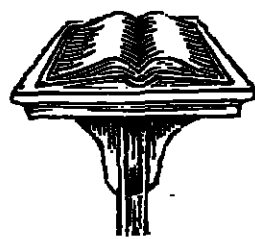
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The storm clouds have lifted



PODIUM

EDDIE GEORGE
From a speech by the Governor of the Bank of England to the annual banquet of the Bankers Club in London

THE TRANSITION to the euro over the year end was a triumph – right across Europe, including here in the UK. That is a great tribute to Europe's central banks – including the ECB (European Central Bank). But it is a great tribute, too, to the dedication and professionalism of the thousands of market participants who played their part in this extraordinary achievement – including those here in the City.

The members of the governing council of the ECB – individually and collectively – are committed to the view that effective price stability is a necessary condition for the sustainable growth of output and employment. So, too, are we in this country.

In this sense price stability is not simply an end in itself. Our aim, like yours in the Eurozone, is to keep aggregate demand in the economy broadly and more or less continuously in line with the underlying capacity of the economy to meet that demand. Consistently low inflation is the measure of our success in achieving that aim. There is not much that either of us can do

through monetary policy directly to affect the underlying rate of growth of productive capacity. That is determined by the structural, supply-side characteristics of the economy.

Demand management, including monetary policy, cannot substitute for the structural reforms that are needed to improve the flexibility with which the economy as a whole responds to change. However we can, through monetary policy, aim to create an environment of stability – avoiding either excessive or deficient demand. That is the best help that we can give.

Assessing the prospective pressure of demand is extraordinarily difficult. It is especially difficult as a result of the uncertainties created by the recent turbulence in the world's financial markets.

The immediate international priority was to contain the financial contagion – and there was some progress in this direction following the initial shocks in Asia. But after a series of new shocks during the summer – Russia, LTCM (long-term credit management), the deepening recession in Japan and the worsening position in

Brazil – the prospects, at around the time of the IMF meeting in Washington last autumn, were looking bleak. The atmosphere among commercial and investment bankers – particularly in the United States – was as nervous as I can remember.

Now, you will rarely hear a central banker predicting fine weather – and I have no intention of breaking that convention. However, the dark-

est storm clouds have lifted a little since the Fund meeting.

Vigilance remains the watchword. But the risks of general, widespread, international financial disturbance have certainly receded.

But we are now having to cope with the economic consequences of the earlier financial disturbances. The inevitable counterpart of recession in much of the rest of the world is a sharp slow-down of net external demand – particularly for manufacturers – in the industrial world. That has been reflected in growing weakness and falling business confidence. The prospect for growth in world economic activity has already roughly halved – from its trend rate of around 4 per cent. And unless this fall in net external demand is offset by stronger domestic demand growth in the industrial countries, the outlook will be dismal.

Happily we start from a position of relatively low inflation throughout the industrial world and, faced with weakening external demand, we can afford to see higher offsetting domestic demand growth without jeopardising price stability.

Indeed, we need to see higher domestic demand growth than we would otherwise, if overall demand is not to fall short of underlying supply-side capacity, so exerting an unnecessary and unwanted further downward pressure on domestic prices. We need it, too, to offset the effects of weak world prices and lower exchange rates in many emerging market producers on our own domestic price level.

All we can realistically attempt is continuously to reassess the aggregate prospects for our separate economies in the light of the continual stream of new information. In that light we must be prepared to contemplate the further easing of monetary policy if overall demand seems likely to fall short of what we had previously anticipated, or, in due course, to move to tighten policy if domestic demand grows too rapidly, or the world economy begins to recover.

By the time we next meet together for this great annual occasion, Y2K (the year 2000) will be behind you, and if you have survived that then you can survive anything.

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 3 February 1999

Smoking out the hypocrites



DEBORAH ORR
I spent an extremely relaxed Sunday with a prominent MEP, sharing a couple of joints of skunk

THERE ARE 87 British MEPs, just 15 of them Conservative, and they all seem united in their lack of sympathy with Tom Spencer's fall. His crimes, the law enforcers have made it abundantly clear, do not amount to very much in their book - a £550 spot fine and no further questions asked. The politicians, however, take a sterner view and need nothing less than the ruin of a solid and useful political career.

It's an emerging pattern. The law no longer feels it useful to mete out serious punishment on some matters - particularly for crimes involving personal drug use - but employers take up the gauntlet instead, not just in high-profile cases such as this one, but routinely as workplace drug-testing becomes ever more prevalent. Why is it that employers can be judge and jury, while judges and juries are not considered to be necessary in resolving these matters? Surely there is something intrinsically unfair and undemocratic in the trend towards civil punishment.

I for one find Tom Spencer's blanket civil punishment for a rag-bag of crimes and misdemeanours confusing, especially when no guidelines beyond media speculation are given as to what the sack-ing offence was. Everyone's agreed that it's not because he's gay, while the legal action taken against him suggests that he's not considered to be a criminal, because he has not been charged. Even the gay videos seem to have been not porn as such but a memento from a lover who had been sanctioned by his wife.

It must surely be the gram and a half of cocaine that he told customs he was also carrying which made his position untenable, but I think it's important that this should be precisely and publicly stated. We can't carry on lumping class A and class B drugs in together as equally heinous, because it's no longer making any sense at all, to either adults or children.

I'd certainly welcome some clarity on the matter, because there's one thing I know for sure. Tom Spencer isn't the only MEP who has ever inhaled cannabis. Last summer I spent an extremely pleasant and notably relaxed Sunday afternoon with a prominent MEP, with whom the assembled



Forced out: Tom Spencer, the disgraced Tory MEP, with his wife Liz and daughters Lorna, Sophia and Venitia at their Surrey home

Bob Barclay

company shared a couple of joints of skunk weed.

He didn't appear to be a habitual user, nor did he seem to be an ingenu. Although he of course knew that smoking dope was illegal, his actions suggested that he was not remotely in agreement with the law on this matter (despite the fact that his publicly stated views on drugs have suggested a different view).

Maybe he's forgotten the entire incident, for the drug did have a minor detrimental effect on his short-term memory. He telephoned us later in the day and explained jovially that after leaving the party he had treated himself to a post-prandial nap. Falling asleep to the sound of Radio 4 paying tribute to William Burroughs, who had died the previous evening, he awoke to hear some biographical details about Samuel Taylor Coleridge drifting from the radio.

"Goodness," he thought, "This is a heavy weekend for druggie writers! They're dropping like flies!" A few moments later, he recalled that in fact Coleridge had been lost to the world some time before that weekend, and put his temporary lapse down to the heady substance he'd partaken of after lunch. His call to share this with us confirmed that

he clearly considered the whole experience to have been an amusing adventure and nothing more.

Now his memory appears to have failed him again, because he feels no need to stand up and be counted alongside Tom Spencer as a cannabis dabbler. Certainly, Spencer has broken the law in using cannabis, but this gentleman has too. I have no wish to name Pot-head MEP number two, because, along with his penchant for a little blow, he has another thing in common with Tom Spencer. He is a good and diligent member of the European Parliament, committed both to Europe and to his British voters.

We certainly can't afford to lose people of his calibre over a crime such as this one, any more than we can afford to lose Tom Spencer. Anyway, such a cull, if embarked on, would be massive. A fifth of new MPs who joined the Commons after the last election admit to having taken cannabis. Clare Short got herself into hot water for hinting that some of her ministerial colleagues had taken cannabis, and even MPs who themselves have never taken cannabis can be no more certain than Jack Straw that they speak for their nearest and dearest, too.

This is the central reason why

the Government's enthusiasm for zero tolerance for even class B drugs is ill-advised and, in broader terms, why the law and the police appear unwilling to enforce such a policy. Schools too, have sensibly declared themselves unwilling to exclude pupils who are caught with cannabis. And even the drugs tsar, Keith Hellawell, seems reluctant fully to embrace the mantra of his masters, as he advises that employees failing drug tests should be offered help and not their P45s. Unappointed guardians of the nation's moral welfare would be best advised not to apply zero tolerance to cannabis, either. In a recent survey 53 per cent of the population admitted to having tried it. They can't all be forced to resign from their jobs.

And we can't operate sensibly as a society with a degree of hypocrisy as huge as this and so very plain to see. Just as I have to square the decent, intelligent MEP with a fat joint in his hand with the man who won't lift those same fingers to defend his fellow European, children up and down the country have to square information denouncing dope smokers with glimpses of their upstanding and otherwise law-abiding parents doing odd things to

cigarettes after they're supposed to be in bed.

I'm reminded of my dope-smoking friend who was asked whether she'd be taking her children on the legalised cannabis march organised by this paper's sister, *The Independent on Sunday*, under the editorship of Rosie "Rizla" Boycott. "God, no," she guffawed. "They'd be absolutely furious if they found out that that stuff their mother smokes was actually an illegal substance!"

Like her, I don't particularly want to rock the boat. I don't think cannabis should be legalised immediately, but I do think that general attitudes to drugs, and particularly drugs education in schools, should fully reflect the tolerant attitudes displayed by the legal profession and the police towards cannabis offences.

I don't even reject links between cannabis and harder drugs. As heavy drinkers are more likely to smoke, smokers are more likely to be cannabis users, and cannabis users are more likely to use hard drugs. We have as much chance of changing this pattern as we have of achieving prohibition of alcohol.

Legality and illegality has little to do with it, beyond the fact that pushing people into the black mar-

ket to obtain something as ubiquitous as cannabis may not be helpful in breaking the soft-drugs-to-hard-drugs chain.

But I do think that we have to be absolutely honest if we are to bring up our children to understand the true dangers of drugs. Children don't like being lied to, and the use of cannabis is too widespread for them to know only what they are told about it at school.

They ought to be told what the *New Scientist* has told us: alcohol use is more damaging than cannabis use. Then they'll have far more reason to believe their teachers when they are told about the very real dangers of far more dangerous drugs. All the withdrawal of Tom Spencer from public life has taught them is that we're as unsure about what's right, what's wrong and what's tolerable as they are. It's not much of a message.

Edward McMillan-Scott, who led the delegation of Tory MEPs asking for Spencer's resignation, should now give a clear and unequivocal statement explaining just exactly why it was that his colleague had to go, and which of his crimes, if committed by other elected representatives, would lead inexorably to their own resignation.

RIGHT OF REPLY

ALISON CRONIN



The scientific director of Monkey World answers Terence Blacker's article on attitudes to animal welfare

TERENCE BLACKER'S article on Tuesday about public attitudes to animals was seriously misinformed and unhelpful. Please allow me to correct him.

First, if Mr Blacker had ever visited Monkey World then he would know that Trudi, the rescued chimpanzee, like all our apes, does not live in a cage, but in a two-acre enclosure.

Second, Mr Blacker quotes the much-publicised recent scientific research that claims that West African chimpanzees are where Aids started. However, these findings seem to me to be very shaky, as they are based on a very small number of chimps - three - found carrying the disease out of a population of many thousands. The exact transmission mechanism of HIV to humans is also left unclear in the accounts of this so-called breakthrough. I am not convinced.

However, most importantly, Mr Blacker is wrong to suggest that the British public is too sentimental about animals - what he calls "tenderness". In fact the British public rightly wants to be informed about the kind of cruelty that Mary Chipperfield was engaged in. The media should highlight it. And, of course, Animal Defenders, the group that investigated the abuse, deserves credit.

Above all, there is a need for better legislation on the welfare of circus animals. Compared to those for zoo animals the guidelines for inspections are rather vague. In this country you can own any animal you like. The Dangerous Wild Animals Act is too weak. It still allows people to own chimps, tigers and other wild animals with only the say-so of a local vet and the local health and safety authorities. Only when the law is changed will chimps such as Trudi have a chance of humane treatment.

The gospel according to Ludovic

WEDNESDAY BOOK

ALL IN THE MIND:
A FAREWELL TO GOD

BY LUDOVIC KENNEDY, HODDER & STOUGHTON, £18.99



SEX IN anything other than the missionary position, according to Ludovic Kennedy's reading of the views of the 13th-century theologian St Thomas Aquinas, was an unnatural vice and worse than intercourse with one's own mother. But it is not just the sex that upsets the veteran broadcaster. There is the absurdity of those medieval cathedrals that claimed to have as relics a branch of Moses' burning bush, 204 bits of the babies massacred by Herod, or Christ's milk teeth and foreskin.

And it is not just the superstition. There is 2,000 years of violence perpetrated in the name of Christianity, from the holy wars of the Crusades and institutionalised murder of the Inquisitions to the persecution of hapless individuals - such as the 18th-century

French aristocrat who declined to doff his hat at a passing religious procession. In punishment, he had his hands cut off and his tongue torn out and was then burned alive.

Kennedy has gathered an impressive catalogue of the madness and madness perpetrated in the name of Christianity over the centuries. He suggests that it not only undermines that faith, but proves that God does not exist. There is a leap in logic here, of

course; for though the awful inventory may discredit the use to which religion has been put, it does not necessarily undermine faith itself.

It is not a distinction Kennedy wants to make. For his book is not an open-minded exploration of the role of 2,000 years of European faith; rather it is a vituperative polemic against the very business of belief. Hence he has just five lines on the cathedrals of Cologne, Chartres and Canterbury, the paintings of Titian and Tintoretto, the music of Bach, Handel, Beethoven and Verdi and the centuries of poetry and literature that Christianity prompted. He has virtually nothing on its care of the poor and marginalised. Against that he has almost 300 pages on the inconsistencies of the Gospels, the intransigence of dogma and what he repeatedly refers to as Christianity's "killing fields".

All of this is racy written and a romp of a read, though some of its intemperate asides impart a tone of intolerance that risks alienating all but avowed atheists. However, the thinking that draws it all together is sloppy. For a seasoned reporter, he draws unjustifiably wide inferences from *ad hominem* arguments. He assumes causal relationships between sequential events. He sets up false polarities between science and religion, inertia and change.

He makes clumsy assumptions, for instance that doubts in matters of morality and of metaphysics are the same thing. His account of the rise of modern English atheism is interesting but displays a constant lack of



Father Brian McGrath guards the relics of St Valentine, housed in a new display in Blessed John Duns Scotus church, Glasgow Press Team

proportion, dwelling as long on the torn frock-coat of Britain's first atheist MP, Charles Bradlaugh, as he does on some of Christianity's truly shameful murderous righteousness.

Kennedy is right; most Christians today would agree about the failures of the past, though he does repeatedly fall into the fallacy of judging the past by the standards of the present rather than from an understanding of those times. He does not understand, for example, that "sin" meant something very different in first-century Palestine than it did in medieval Christendom or in later centuries.

But a greater fault than this historicity is the stiffening literalism that underlies his view of the Bible. He describes the Gospels as doc-drama and seems to assume that, if they are not historically accurate, then they are devoid of truth of other kinds. This is surprising, for he writes a rather moving concluding chapter on his own personal spirituality - sparked by hearing bagpipes across a Scottish hillside. It is full of references to the poetic, the subconscious and the elliptical. Yet he will admit no sense of myth or metaphor in the Bible. Nor will he concede that his own sense of

More women are victims of INTESTACY than DIVORCE

A woman, on average, lives longer than a man. So she is more likely to have to face the difficulties of intestacy - the legal term for being left in a mess because her husband didn't make a Will.

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Paul Mellon

A PHILANTHROPIST, art collector, and sportsman, Paul Mellon made handsome gifts to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge and to the Tate Gallery, but he was perhaps especially known in Britain as the owner and breeder of the classic racehorse Mill Reef.

Mellon's life appeared to have been endowed with rare blessings. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1907, he was the only son of one of America's richest magnates, Andrew Mellon, who had amassed a great fortune in banking and who in later life entered politics to become Secretary of the Treasury for a term that spanned three presidencies, those of Harding, Coolidge and Hoover, and who was subsequently appointed American Ambassador to the Court of St James. Paul Mellon's mother, Nora McMullen, was a brewer's daughter from England.

Yet Mellon's childhood was far from happy, a fact that only became clear when he published his memoirs, *Reflections in a Silver Spoon* (1992), in his 86th year. The psychological impact on him as a small boy of his parents' wretched marriage and the tempestuous divorce that terminated it overshadowed his life well into middle age. This setback probably accounted for his extreme shyness as a young man but the shyness was skilfully hidden by exemplary good manners, great charm and a finely tuned, rather playful sense of humour. He was in fact the perfect gentleman, honourable, loyal, considerate of others, conscientious in his stewardships and invariably taking great pains to be fair.

He completed his education at Choate School in Connecticut and Yale University with two years as an undergraduate at Clare College, Cambridge, where he became a lifelong devotee of fox-hunting. Aware of his father's unexpressed wish that he should make a career in the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, but realising that he had no aptitude or enthusiasm for it, he resolved to follow his own leanings towards scholarship, the arts, country life and sport, and over a period of time he developed these interests into the spectacular accomplishments for which he became known.

He effectively disbursed a substantial portion of the fortune his father had amassed, funneling over \$600m, through personal philanthropy and through the vehicle of his foundations, into the fields of higher education, the arts, conservation and preservation, psychiatry, religion and science. He said of himself that he "became rather like a bird dog, a pointer perhaps, guiding others towards efforts I thought needed undertaking or improvement".

After his father's death in 1937, Mellon took a keen and lasting in-

terest in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, acting at various times over a period of 47 years as Trustee, Vice-President, President and Chairman. Andrew Mellon had funded the original building (now known as the West Building) of the National Gallery of Art and presented it to the nation together with his renowned collection of Old Master paintings. It was opened to the public four years after his death in 1941. Thirty-seven years later, in 1978, Paul Mellon turned over the new East Building, designed by I.M. Pei, to President Jimmy Carter "to be dedicated forever to the use and enjoyment of the people of the United States".

*He said he
"became rather
like a bird dog,
a pointer perhaps,
guiding others
towards efforts I
thought needed
undertaking or
improvement"*

This building had again been almost entirely funded with Mellon money. Paul's late sister Ailsa's foundation also playing a major part. Added to these benefactions he gave the gallery a large number of French Impressionist paintings collected over the years by him and by his wife Bunny.

Apart from his association with the National Gallery, Mellon started in the early Sixties to form a remarkable collection of British art. He had always been a dedicated Anglophile and his collection provided a comprehensive survey of British paintings, drawings, prints and books centred on the period from Robert Walpole's ministries up until the accession of Queen Victoria.

The architect Louis Kahn was engaged to design a gallery to be called the Yale Center for British Art, and in 1977 Mellon presented it, together with his collection, to Yale University. Over and above this he endowed the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art in London, to pursue research and scholarship under the umbrella of the Yale institution. After the departure of all the material from his own private gallery, the Brick House, on his 4,500-acre farm in Virginia, he amused himself by building up a collection of sporting art which was destined for Yale and for his

local museum, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Mellon's interest in psychiatry stemmed from a period he spent in Switzerland shortly before America entered the Second World War, when he and his first wife, Mary, worked under the guidance of Carl Jung. Later, after the war, and shortly before her death in 1946, he and Mary started the Bollingen Foundation which, among many other publications, brought out a set of volumes of the complete works of Jung in English translation.

Mellon had been baptised in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle and throughout his life made countless visits to see his friends in Britain, to view the art galleries and to attend the races. A much-respected figure in racing circles, he supported the work of the Royal Veterinary College and kept horses in training with Ian Balding and with Balding's predecessors, Ivor Anthony and Peter Hastings-Bass, for over 50 years. He must have been one of a dwindling number of old-fashioned sportsman owners.

In the corner of the study of his house in New York he had framed a quotation from Thomas à Kempis which read "Everywhere I have sought rest and found it not, except sitting in a corner with a little book." This quotation might equally have applied to Mellon, who was a somewhat solitary figure and an avid reader. With a great number of acquaintances, his circle of close friends always remained small and that circle was progressively reduced as his old friends predeceased him.

He was a good companion. Apart from enjoying his interesting conversation and his sense of fun, one always had a feeling of his soundness and loyalty. His tastes were simple and he was equally at home at a distinguished gathering, relaxing over a drink in an English pub or eating frankfurters at a hot-dog stand outside a racecourse. In 1948 he married Rachel "Bunny" Lloyd and over a very long period her creative and imaginative presence, helping to maintain five houses and over 250 employees, gave him a feeling of security which he had never known in his early years.

JOHN BASKETT

Paul Mellon's unstinting passion for horses can be gleaned from his first, unsuccessful effort at his autobiography, writes Julian Muscat. Having scribbled furiously for the better part of 1960, he abandoned the work on realising that some 100 pages had been devoted exclusively to his equine allies of yesterday.

No doubt he had much to say; a veritable library of books has been written on his outstanding homebred Mill Reef, possibly the finest horse to grace Britain's racecourses since the Second World War. And



Mellon, right, a dedicated Anglophile, with a bronze of his racehorse Mill Reef by John Skeaping, centre, in 1973 Hulton Getty

when, as a four-year-old in 1972, Mill Reef shattered a limb on the gallops, Mellon accepted an offer which allowed the horse to assume stallion duties at the National Stud in Newmarket rather than be sold more lucratively abroad.

This gesture of benevolence would have been familiar to those in the art world, and the fact that Mill Reef was nevertheless syndicated for a record sum serves to underline the esteem in which the colt was held. The little bay with the white star on his forehead was to prove immensely influential in his new role; the mere mention of Mill Reef still brings a shine to the eyes of his most ardent admirer, the racing commentator John Oaksey.

Horse racing and breeding gave Mellon excitement in a way art never did, so much so that he became irritable if distracted on the racecourse when he had a runner. Of his seven properties the one he called home was Rokeby Farm in Virginia, his American racing stable and nursery to a plethora of homebred champions.

So smitten was he with riding to hounds that he fled to Ireland on 20 January 1936, the day King George V died and hunting was temporarily suspended. He also rode in point-to-point, on one occasion unknowingly risking his life aboard Knight of the

Galtee. The horse, bought from Liz Whitney, had been retired from racing by Whitney's then husband, Jock, after veterinary diagnosis revealed Knight of the Galtee to have a shockingly bad heart.

Mellon's hunting days were brought to an abrupt end in 1975 when he was almost fatally kicked in the chest at Bath racecourse; he owed his survival to what he described as a "well-filled wallet". A season's hunting with the Middleton, as guest of his friend Lord Halifax, earned him the sobriquet "Water Mellon", so regularly was he unseated into the deep, water-filled ditches of the Yorkshire landscape.

Mellon started buying breeding stock in 1946. Three years later he made what was to prove his most momentous purchase, giving 12,000 guineas for the unraced two-year-old filly Red Ray. She produced only three live foals, the only filly being Virginia Water, herself unraced due to ankle problems. Virginia Water, in turn, bred Milan Mill, a fragile filly who was unsuccessful in a handful of starts. Yet from this decidedly unsound bloodline was foaled, on 23 February 1968, a bay colt - by Never Bend from Milan Mill - that was to capture the hearts of British racegoers with his talent, daring and durability.

Named after a stretch of water near Mellon's Antiguan summer

house, Mill Reef annexed the Coventry, Gimcrack, Imperial and Dewhurst Stakes in a dazzling two-year-old campaign. After a defeat by his deadly rival Brigadier Gerard in the Two Thousand Guineas, Mill Reef was raced over distances of more than one mile and swept all before him, gaining runaway victories in the Derby, Eclipse Stakes, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in 1971.

Mill Reef picked up the winning thread as a four-year-old until he fractured the cannon-bone in his near-foreleg when preparing for a confrontation with Brigadier Gerard. A life-saving operation rescued him for stud duties, during which he sired two Derby winners in Shirley Heights and Reference Point, an Irish Derby hero in Shirley Heights, a French Derby winner in Arcamas and an Italian Derby winner in Mellon's home-bred Gint of Gold. His progeny had conquered the Derbies of Europe.

Mill Reef was trained by Ian Balding, who took over the Mellon horses from Peter Hastings-Bass in 1964. Balding later married Hastings-Bass's daughter Emma, who managed Mellon's British-based broodmares, while Mellon was godfather to Hastings-Bass's son William, now Lord Huntingdon

and until recently the Queen's principal trainer.

Mellon's Rokeby Farm enjoyed sweeping success in America. His first trainer Elliot Birch handled Mellon's first Classic winner Quadrangle, hero of the 1964 Belmont Stakes, and guided Arts and Letters to Horse of the Year honours in 1969. Fort Marcy repeated the feat for the Birch/Mellon team the following year. Mackenzie "Mack" Miller took over from Birch in 1976 and trained many Rokeby colour-bearers to championship honours.

For all these glittering Turf prizes, Mellon stated that, although he would be forgotten in 50 years' time, his name will always be printed in the Stud Book as the breeder of Mill Reef. Paul Mellon's name will be remembered in thoroughbred circles for a lot more besides.

Paul Mellon, art collector, philanthropist, racehorse breeder; born Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 11 June 1907; Trustee, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC 1945-85, President 1963-79, Chairman of Trustees 1979-85, Honorary Trustee 1985-99; Trustee, Andrew Mellon Foundation 1969-99; Hon KBE 1974; married 1935 Mary Conover (died 1946; one son, one daughter), 1948 Bunny Lloyd (née Lambert); died Upper-ville, Virginia 2 February 1994.

Huntz Hall

HUNTZ HALL gave some impressive performances on film as a character actor (notably in the war film *A Walk in the Sun*) but he will always be remembered for his role as part of the gang known through the years as the Dead End Kids, the East Side Kids and ultimately the Bowery Boys.

Hall was the rubber-faced, eager out, forever the butt of the others' humour and the recipient of countless whacks over the head from the group's leader (Leo Gorcey). Told "The only thing that could improve your looks is plastic surgery", he delightedly replies, "Thank you for the compliment." With his wide eyes and hunched demeanour, as if constantly cowering from the inevitable blows, he created a memorable character and proved the most durable of the cast, appearing in 81 of the series' films (more than any other actor) including the final one in 1958.

The Dead End Kids started life in Sidney Kingsley's play *Dead End*, produced on Broadway in 1935 and filmed two years later by William Wyler. The six juveniles from the play - Hall, Gorcey, Billy Halop, Bobby Jordan, Gabriel Dell and Bernard Punsly - were all recruited for the Hollywood version, recreating their roles as youngsters whose attitudes are conditioned by their poverty-stricken environment, making them easy prey to the influence of a gangster (Bumfrey Bogart).

Hall was already a veteran in show business, having made his Broadway debut at the age of three months in the play *Thunder on the Left*. The 14th of 16 children of an Irish immigrant engineer, he was born Henry Richard Hall in New York City in 1919, but was rechristened "Huntz" by a brother who said his large nose made him look German. After graduating from a Catholic grammar school he attended the Professional Children's School.

While studying, he sang as a boy soprano with the Madison Square Quintette, appeared in an experimental television transmission in 1932, and acted in several radio

shows. He was still attending the school when he auditioned for *Dead End* and was given the part of Dippy because he could imitate a machine gun. "That's how I got in *Dead End*", he said later, "after all the training, the tap dancing and the singing."

The *Dead End Kids* featured in six subsequent dramas for Warner Brothers, notably the Michael Curtiz classic *Angels With Dirty Faces* (1938), in which they again idolise a gangster (James Cagney), and Busby Berkeley's *They Made Me A Criminal* (1939). Hall then appeared in several Universal films which featured both the *Dead End Kids* and the *Little Tough Guys*. Primarily comedies, these were undistin-

*Hall reads a
magazine in a
darkened bedroom
and is asked how
he can read in the
dark. 'I went to
night school,'
he replies*

guished, but the actor later stated that he benefited from watching the studio's main comic stars in action, particularly Shemp Howard and WC Fields.

In 1940 Hall married for the first time, eloping with the dancer Elsie May Anderson. They were divorced four years later after a stormy marriage during which Hall developed a reputation as a woman-chaser. Evelyn Ankers, who played the female lead in *Hit the Road* (1941) stated, "On one occasion after a day's shooting I thought I was the last one to leave but on my way out I bumped into Huntz Hall (and all). He put his arms around me and tried to

force me to kiss him. I responded as my daddy taught me to - I let him have it with my knee right between his legs."

Bowery Blitzkrieg (1941), made by the minor studio Monogram, was the first film in which Hall played as one of the East Side Kids, but it was the next, *Spooks Run Wild* (1941), that firmly established the team as purveyors of good-natured corn and Hall's character Glimpy as the principal comic, blissfully unaware of his own stupidity. (When Hall reads a magazine in a darkened bedroom he is asked how he can read in the dark and replies, "I went to night school.")

Hall played one of his rare roles without the gang in *Private Buckaroo* (1942), as a corporal who teaches Harry James to play the trumpet, but his most acclaimed performance was as Private Garroway, one of a battalion on a suicidal mission in Italy in Lewis Milestone's *A Walk in the Sun* (1946), which won him the Blue Ribbon Award from the New York Theatre Critics Circle. Hall himself served in the Army briefly before being honourably discharged with bad eyesight.

Though several of the films starring the East Side Kids were entertaining, notably *Let's Get Tough* (1942), in which the boys expose a wartime secret society plotting against the US, *Clancy Street Boys* (1943), *Block Busters* (1944) and *Bowery Champs* (1944), it was with the Bowery Boys series, launched by Monogram in 1946, that the team found their biggest success, with greater uniformity of style and characterisation.

Gorcey, now given star billing, was Slip, given to wild malapropisms and ideas above his station, and Hall was Sach, frantically gyrating his lips and often taken advantage of by Slip. The prime setting was the drug-store run by Louie (played by Gorcey's father Bernard) where the boys sip sodas they cannot pay for. An indication of the films' profitability was Monogram's decision to give them a shooting schedule of two weeks



Hall, arms folded, and the Dead End Kids in *Dead End*, 1937

Hulton Getty

(the previous films had been shot in six or seven days). Gorcey, Hall, Jordan and Dell remained of the original team, with Billy Benedict now a regular member.

"We all got along fabulously," said Hall. "We went our own ways when we were not working professionally. We tried to avoid the problems of other comedy teams like Abbott and Costello or Martin and Lewis. If we were always together, it could have caused problems." Of Gorcey, he stated, "We dug one another." Hall's character was central to many of the plots - in *Mr Her* (1946), Sach acquires superhuman strength after being put in a trance

by a magician, and in *Hold That Baby!* (1949) he registers as a patient at a sanatorium so that he and Slip can investigate suspicious doings. (Signing the registration form, Sach carefully writes an "X", prompting Slip to tell him, "Don't sign your real name." Sach erases it, and replaces it with an "O".)

In *Master Minds* (1949), Sach's brain is electronically transplanted into an ape man, and in *Blues Busters* (1950) he becomes a popular crooner after a tonsillectomy gives him a seductive singing voice. Hall's private life was not without incident - in 1948 he was arrested for possession of marijuana, though

later exonerated by a hung jury, in 1954 he was charged with disturbing the peace after fighting an apartment manager who had tried to quieten a noisy party, and in 1959 he was charged with drunk driving.

By the time of the Bowery Boys film *Clipped Wings* (1953), Gorcey and Hall were getting virtually all the screen time, with the other "boys" little more than extras, and Gabriel Dell, the last remaining original, left the series, but their popularity continued. "There is a peculiar chemistry that keeps a series going for years," said the producer Ben Schwab, "Leo and Huntz have an instinctive feeling about dialogue and scenes,

They live their parts before the camera and they know just what will play for a laugh and what will not."

After Bernard Gorcey died, Leo made one more film in the series, *Crashing Las Vegas* (1956), then retired and was replaced by Stanley Clements, but the chemistry was not the same and, though he now received star billing and did seven more pictures, Hall was not happy.

In *The Money* (1958) was the last Bowery Boys film, but Hall continued to perform. He and Gabriel Dell formed a night-club act, "Hall and Dell", which led their respective wives (Hall had married a second time in 1948) to sue for divorce, claiming the couple thought more of their night-club act than they did of their wives. Hall played character roles in *Gentle Giant* (1967), *Herbie Rides Again* (1974) and Ken Russell's *Valentino* (1977), for which he won praise with his portrayal of Jesse Lasky, and he worked frequently in television.

On stage, he toured in productions of *The Odd Couple* and *The Sunshine Boys*, finally retiring in 1994. Proud of his son Gary, who is a Catholic priest, Hall was active in lay Catholic affairs, and in 1973 participated in Princess Grace's Council for Drug Abuse. Divorced three times and widowed once, the actor lived comfortably in Los Angeles, wealthy from offshore oil investments and a 10 per cent percentage of the Bowery Boys films. (The only one of the original six *Dead End Kids* surviving is Punsly, a retired doctor, with Billy Benedict the only survivor of subsequent gang members.)

Asked in 1990 why the films had such universal appeal, Huntz Hall replied, "They're Americana. They were also pretty entertaining. After seeing our pictures, you got rid of your problems. In today's movies, the problems are on the screen."

TOM VALLANCE

Henry Richard Hall (Huntz Hall), actor; born New York 15 August 1919; married four times (one son); died Los Angeles 30 January 1993.



Mary Barker



Barker at her floor loom, at which she wove wall-hangings and clothes such as the tabard she is wearing

MARY BARKER was a hand-weaver, artist, teacher and enthusiastic leading figure in the Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers for nearly half a century. She was a deft, birdlike presence in textile circles, and would walk miles rather than take a bus or taxi to attend specialist functions and exhibitions.

She was born in north Somerset in 1907, the eldest of five children of Professor B.T.P. Barker of Bristol University (Professor of Agriculture and Horticulture), also the Director of the Fruit and Cider Research Station at Long Ashton. She studied for the Diploma in Textile Industries and Design at both Leeds University and Leeds School of Art; the two-stream course was created especially for her and she was the first woman to study textile industries at Leeds, a lone female among some 75 men.

Although the course was devoted chiefly to industrial practice, Barker also took a craft specialism in silk weaving, a line of enquiry she followed throughout her life. In 1930 she joined the London contract design studio of the carpet firm John Crossley and Sons under the direction of B.C. Baltazanos. Among the carpets they created were fine Wiltons for the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden. Designs had to be painstakingly painted out in repeat and a precise, developed colour sense was required. At this time Barker threw herself into London life and was a keen follower of ballet, opera, music and the theatre.

In the war years Barker served as a paymaster in the WRNS. She enjoyed the responsibility and even the complicated calculations, adapting easily from her "other" life in a design studio. Her position as a Wren officer, she claimed in her autobiography (*Tangled Threads*, 1998), gave her the courage to challenge her teachers when she re-entered art school on a "demo" grant after the war.

Studying for an Art Teacher's Diploma at Hornsey School of Art in 1947, she found the weaving being taught dull and the grant inadequate; however, she was soon teaching evening classes there herself, the income from which helped her to survive. She soon became a member of the regular part-time staff.

At the age of 43 she began also to

teach at Brighton School of Art, taking over a part-time job from the elderly Ethel Mairet, one of the Ditching group of artists and craftspeople. Mairet's legendary "Gospels" workshop was the seedbed for many advanced textile talents, amongst whom were Marianne Straub and Peter Collingwood.

Barker, who was still living in London, visited often at weekends from 1950 to 1952, staying in the house-cum-studio and "working her passage"; she had an open brief to weave in her own style, using Mairet's collection of luxurious silk and wool yarns combined with industrially spun cotton. Elegant, gauze-weave stoles and scarves from the late phase of Gospels (1950-52) are attributed to her.

During the 1950s Mary Barker exhibited with the Crafts Centre in London, the Arts and Crafts Exhibition

Society (now the Society of Designer-Craftsmen) and the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. In 1959 she moved permanently to Brighton and her abstract hangings in silk and wool began to appear in shows of national significance, including "Weaving for Walls", at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1965.

Down in Brighton she showed with the Phoenix Group from the late 1950s to 1982. Her output included embroideries, lithographs and paintings as well as hand-woven wall-hangings and one-off garments. Examples of her work accompanied her on lecture tours which, following retirement from teaching in 1970, took her to Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Canada.

Throughout the 1950s, 1960s and up to the late 1970s, she steered the production of the *Quarterly Journal of the*

Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, often known as the "Weavers' Journal". She was twice Secretary and Chairman of its editorial committee over a period of 26 years while contributing news, reviews and articles to improve hand-weaving knowledge. The guild's exhibitions, both nationally and in her own East Sussex branch, included her work right up to 1998; she was also its President throughout the 1990s.

Mary Barker's services to her craft were recognised in 1992 when she was appointed MBE. She received this award accompanied by her nephew Christopher Round.

MARGOT COATS

Mary Barker, weaver: born Long Ashton, Somerset 10 February 1907; MBE 1992; died Brighton, East Sussex 20 January 1999.

Hammy Howell

TWENTY YEARS ago, Darts dusted off a host of doo-wop and Fifties rhythm 'n' blues classics, penned a series of their own and scored a series of eight Top Twenty hits in the UK.

Hammy Howell joined Darts in late 1976 after the band, who had already done a cappella sessions on Charlie Gillett's seminal BBC Radio London *Honky Tonk* show, announced they were looking for a piano player. Rita Ray, one of the group's four lead vocalists, recalls, "You don't come across a left-hand talent like that very often. Hammy's thunderous rhythm made him a natural for us."

Howell was born in London in 1954 and developed a passion for the piano from an early age. By the mid-Seventies, he was backing Johnny Mars, a blues harmonica player who had relocated from the United States to Britain. Mars and his Oakland Boogie Band were regular visitors to Germany where they acquired a cult following among blues aficionados.

Darts had evolved from the break-up of Rocky Sharpe and the Razors, a rock 'n' roll revue-style act who had

caused a sensation on London's pub-rock scene. Rocky Junior, the Razors' frontman, left the band and eventually scored a couple of hits with the Replays. Keen to "really delve into the roots of rhythm 'n' blues", the Razors' bass-singer Den Hegarty, his vocalists Griff Fender and Rita Ray, and saxophonist Horatio Hornblower, added Bob Fish, a veteran of the pub scene, and, alongside Hammy Howell, recruited the guitarist George Currie, the bassist Iain "Thump" Thompson and the drummer John Dummer, to become Darts.

In 1971, after considering an offer from Stiff Records, Darts signed to the Magnet label. Under the guidance of the producers Richard Hartley and Tommy Boyce, the group blended the Rays' "Daddy Cool" and Little Richard's infectious "The Girl Can't Help It" into a catchy medley which reached No 6 in the British charts in December that year.

On a lull, Darts returned to their doo-wop record collections, updating "Come Back My Love" (popularised by the Wrens and the Cardinals), "Boy from New York City" (the Ad-Libs 1965 hit) and "It's Raining" (by the formidable

rhythm 'n' blues vocalist Irma Thomas) for three consecutive No 2s in 1978. Chaotic yet memorable *Top of the Pops* appearances and the popularity of their debut album *Darts*, the follow-up *Everybody Plays Darts* and the compilation *Amazing Darts*, marketed by KTel, helped the band become Britain's biggest-selling act of 1978.

"We were a one-off. Even the punks loved us," reflects Ray. "There was a really strange affinity between what we were doing and what they liked. Johnny Rotten used to come to our gigs. Later Madness and the Specials showed up too."

However, the band's punishing schedule was beginning to take its toll and, apart from the fine "Get It", their self-penned efforts like "Don't Let It Fade Away" didn't quite match the performance of previous singles.

Howell quit in order to study classical music for a while. "Up to a couple of years ago, he was still taking piano lessons. Hammy was really dedicated," Ray remembers. He returned to the fold for a short spell in 1980, after the group's last Top Twenty hit, a cover of

the Four Seasons' "Let's Hang On". Darts struggled on with releases on Sunburst and their own Choice Cuts label before splitting up three years later.

Griff Fender, Rita Ray, Thump Thompson and Horatio Hornblower joined the cast of *Yokely Yok*, a rock 'n' roll musical which made a successful move to the West End in 1983. Several ex-Darts members became band managers.

The Eighties and Nineties were not kind to Howell who, says Rita Ray, had severe mental problems. He never really got over his mother's illness and death. He put on far too much weight. When I was running the Mambo Inn and DJ'ing in Brighton, he sometimes played in the chill-out lounge. He moved into sheltered accommodation in Torquay, where he started teaching piano and played in the house band. But he wouldn't listen to anybody and he had a heart attack. All he cared about was playing the piano, tea and food. When Hammy was playing, he was happy. He was a wonderful boogie-woogie piano player."

PIERRE PERRONE

William "Hammy" Howell, piano and keyboard player: born London 24 October 1954; died Torquay, Devon 13 January 1999.

Grant of wide injunction was not automatic

IN AN action for infringement of a patent, the court would not automatically grant a wide injunction to restrain the defendant from infringing the patent in suit, but might only grant more restricted relief, tied to the acts of infringement alleged and proved against the defendant.

The court, having earlier given judgment for the plaintiffs in their patent action against the defendants, declined to grant an injunction simply to restrain infringement of their patent, but limited the injunction to the acts of infringement proved.

It was argued for the plaintiffs that the patent field the general form of injunction was the standard form and had been so for a very long time, and that the practice should not be overturned lightly.

Richard Miller QC and Justin Turner (Clifford Chance) for the plaintiffs; Anthony Watson QC and Thomas Hinchliffe (Bird & Bird) for the defendants.

Mr Justice Laddie said that whenever a court granted permanent injunctive relief at the end of a trial the purpose should be to give effect to its judgment on liability. The injunction granted should protect the plaintiff from a continuation of the infringement of his rights by the threatened activities of the defendant. The injunction must also, however, be fair to the defendant.

The purpose of the injunction was to restrain threatened breaches of the plaintiff's rights. In at least one patent case, *Raleigh v. Miller* (1998) 66 RPC 22, an injunction had been refused where there had been

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT
3 FEBRUARY 1999

Coflexip SA and another v Stolt Comex Seaway MS Ltd and others
Chancery Division, Patents Court (Mr Justice Laddie)
29 January 1999

product which, though different to the subject of the original proceedings was still arguably within the scope of the patent? The issue of infringement would already have been decided against him in the original proceedings and thus *res judicata* but that was not so in relation to the new product or process. If he went ahead and adopted the new process or product, he ran the risk of sequestration, fines, or, in the case of a personal defendant, imprisonment for contempt of court.

It would be wrong to change a settled practice on a whim. In the area of equitable relief, as in all others, judges were meant to apply uniform standards and uniform principles. The fact that broad injunctions had been granted in the past did not mean, however, that it was impermissible to look ahead at the basic principles. If such a reassessment suggested that the standard form of relief in the circumstances of a particular case was inappropriate, it would be wrong to grant it, no matter what its pedigree.

Whilst in cases of flagrant infringement of copyrights or trade marks, wide injunctions might be the only reasonable way of giving plaintiffs the protection they needed, to go from that to the general proposition that all infringers of intellectual property rights were to be treated as delinquent and that plaintiffs needed much wider orders in intellectual property cases to protect them against future ingenious, but yet unthought of, acts of infringement was unjustified.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

GAZETTE

BIRTHS
BOWMAN: A daughter, Isobel Frances, to Rosemary (née Bailey) and Paul, of Tattenhall, Cheshire, on 12 January.

DEATHS
BOYARS: Marion, publisher, beloved wife of Arthur, mother of Susan and Catherine and grandmother of Daniel, Emma, Ella and Tessa, peacefully at home on 1 February. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium on Thursday 4 February at 4.30pm. No flowers, but contributions to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

THOMPSON: nee Daley, Elizabeth Rieda (Betty), suddenly on 31 January. Beloved wife of the late Morice William, caring sister of Francis, loving mother of Anne, Sarah, Peter, Jeffrey and Lynn, also devoted grandmother of 13. Requiem mass on Wednesday 10 February at 11am in St Patrick's Church, Green Bank, Weybridge, followed by cremation at East London Crematorium. Family flowers only, but any donations to British Heart Foundation, 14 Fitzhardinge St, London W1. Enquiries to A. and C. Tatham, 116 Jubilee Street, London E1 SE8, 0171-790 4097.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

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FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES
Mr J. Pelham Burn and Miss K. Bailey
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Pelham Burn, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Kara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graeme Bailey, of Ourimbah, New South Wales.

BIRTHDAYS
Miss Maev Alexander, actress, 51; Mr George Alban, former Headmaster, Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, 63; Sir Anthony Alment, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 77; Miss Gillian Ayres, painter, 69; Mr Michael Dickinson, racehorse trainer, 49; Mr Val Doonan, singer, 70; The Earl of Antrim, former Keeper of Conservation, Tate Gallery, 64; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gilling, former Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, 74; Mr Gavin Henderson, Principal, Trini-

ty College of Music, 51; Baroness O'Carroll, former managing director, the Barbican Centre, 61; Brigadier the Hon Dame Mary Phil, former Director of the WRAC, 83; Mr Frankie Vaughan, singer, 71.

ANNIVERSARIES
Births: Horace Greeley, newspaper editor, 1811; Gertrude Stein, writer and critic, 1874; Priam Raimier, composer, 1903. Deaths: John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, 1399; John Lane, publisher, 1928; Boris Karloff (William Henry Pratt), actor, 1969; John Cassavetes, actor, director and screenwriter, 1989. On this day: Bartholomew Diaz landed at Mossal Bay, Cape of Good Hope, 1488; the Soviet spacecraft Luna 9 reached the Moon and sent back television pictures, 1966. Today is the Feast Day of St Anskar, St Blaise, St Is the Virgin, St Laurence of Canterbury, St Laurence of Spoleto, Saint Margaret "of England" and St Werburga.

HORNERS' COMPANY
The Election Day Court of the Worshipful Company of Horners was held yesterday, followed by a service in St James Garlickhythe, London EC4. A luncheon was held later at Painters' Hall, London EC2. The following were elected and installed as officers for the ensuing year: MASTER: Dr Leonard E Smith; UPPER WARDEN: Mr Raymond R. Knowland; RENTER WARDEN: Mr Miles St C. Reid.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Princess Royal, Member of the International Olympic Committee, attends a meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

LECTURES
National Gallery: Kathleen Adler, "Ingres O. Portraits by Ingres: images of an epoch", 1pm.
Victoria and Albert Museum: Patricia Baker, "Dragon Robes in 19th-century China", 4pm.
Tate Gallery: Peter Doig talks about his work, 1pm

(telephone 0171-887 8923 for tickets).
Royal Society of Arts, London WC2: Paddy Ashdown, "Proportional Representation and its Consequences for British Politics", 6pm (telephone 0171-980 9286 for tickets).
British Museum: John Cherry, "The Saverake Horn in Context", 11.30am.

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WORDS
CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
land-office, adj.
as did those canny entrepreneurs who parcelled out land in the Rush. Fittingly, it now turns out that the relics are a scam.

Meanwhile, in place of that weary cliché about gossiping over the water-cooler, the stylish about doing so over the picklebarrel. The OED lists the word, but with neither example nor hint of such a metaphor. As for *www.dot.com*, it exists but - significantly? - is inaccessible.

You ask the questions

(Such as: Dr Margaret Cook, does it bother you that you have been cast as the woman scorned?)

Dr Margaret Cook, 54, a consultant haematologist and mother of two, was married to Robin Cook, the foreign secretary, for 29 years. They divorced last March after revelations that he had been having an affair with his secretary, Gaynor Regan. Cook married Ms Regan last April. Margaret has written an intimate account of the breakdown of her marriage. *A Slight and Delicate Creature*, published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson. She lives in Edinburgh and has two grown-up sons.

What was your aim in writing your memoirs?
James Issacs, Southwold
I wrote my memoirs in response to sorrows past rather than with a conscious aim. But I had already found solace in writing, and especially writing about myself. I had an idea that I would gain insights and be able to analyse more clearly what went wrong. Though I realised the book would create embarrassment for my ex-husband, I did not feel I owed him courtesy or loyalty.

Can you think of one nice thing to say about Robin?
Lucy Duffield, Maidstone
Yes, that I loved him in spite of everything until he repudiated me. He was clever, witty, good company, and he was also an excellent conversationalist.

How did you hope that your former husband would react to some of your frank recollections in your book?
Barry Saunders, Liverpool
I wrote the book for myself, not my former husband. I didn't really dwell on his reactions.

How do you feel on the day of your divorce, 13 March 1995?
Angie Owen, Ulswater
I felt liberated.

Would you agree revenge is a dish best served in print?
Harry Odell, Newcastle
No. Revenge was not part of my motivation.



What did you think of Tony Blair's reaction when news of Robin's affair broke? Do you think he was fair?
Jon Barry, Cornwall
Tony was on holiday when news of the affair broke. His fairness is irrelevant. He showed very little understanding of how to write to someone in a state of grief and shock.

What effect do you think your book has had on your children?
Peter Bradshaw, London
My children have not taken sides over the book or tried to dissuade me from writing it. I think the question that needs to be asked is: what

effect did their father's behaviour, and its revelation in the *News Of The World*, have on them?

Beards: good, bad or ugly?
Emily Garton, Preston
Beards: no strong feelings!

What do you think of Bill Clinton's extra marital affairs? What advice would you have for Hillary?
Lesley Hurst, Colchester
Bill Clinton is cast in a similar role to Robin, I believe. There may be an underlying insecurity which provokes him to seek political power and to prove his male attractions repeatedly. I wouldn't be so arrogant

as to advise Hillary. She will do her own thing, though I have much sympathy for her.

Despite his failings as a husband, would you admit that Robin Cook is a good foreign secretary?
Don Gwyn, Brighton
He's an incredibly astute and able politician, but not at his best in one-to-one engagements, perhaps a disadvantage as foreign secretary.

Do you ever worry that you've been cast as the woman scorned?
Anne Melville, Swindon
I certainly don't like the "Hell hath no fury" bit. I've never been angry

or furious. I have been rather sad and devastated.

For whom did you vote in the last election? Will you vote for Labour in the next election?
Tina Elliot, Edinburgh
I voted Lib Dem in Edinburgh. I shall vote Labour in the Scottish election.

Is it true that you have formed a new relationship with a man that you met through a dating agency?
Laura Davies, Clifton
Yes.

What did your best friend think about you writing your memoirs?

Michael Roberts, Stockwell
Close women friends are very supportive and commend my courage.

If you could say one thing to Robin now, what would it be?
Hugo Rogers, North Yorkshire
That depends if it were public or private. It would be something quite gentle and kindly.

Is there anything you miss about being married to Robin?
Simon Ellis, Portsmouth
The easy companionship we had, and the family unity.

What did you do to distract your-

self on the day that Robin and Gaynor got married?
Lizzie Cockayne, Denmark Hill
I didn't need any distractions that day - I was working.

Are you still interested in politics? Patrick Naylor, Sheffield
How can you live in this world and not be? I'd be interested in bringing more applied psychology into the subject.

What was it that attracted you initially to your former husband?
Daniel McCartney, Lewisham
His intellect and his well-stocked and lively mind. He was also a very affectionate man.

What would you say if one of your children asked to read your book?
Julia Peel, Bury St Edmunds
The boys both read the book before its publication date.

What is one of your happiest memories?
Nick Duffy, Bromley
My happiest memories are of relaxed times with the family when the boys were growing up. Rides in the New Forest, an exhilarating gallop, followed by tea and toast around the fire.

How do you relax?
Christine Kendrick, Stockport
With my feet up and a good book, a glass of wine, too.

NEXT WEEK

GERRY ADAMS, FOLLOWED BY BOBBY CHARLTON



Send questions for Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and footballing legend Bobby Charlton to: You Ask the Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2183 or e-mail: yourquestions@independent.co.uk by noon on Friday 5 February

THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

28. MODERNISERS BY LAURA THOMPSON

"MODERN" is the mantra of today. It is modern to be modern, as our Prime Minister might say. To be the opposite of modern is to be rusty, dusty and musty. Heaven forbid! cried Modern Britain, running as far as its JP Tods will carry it towards the millennium, and leaving behind all those reactionaries who preferred Channel 4 News before it got its exciting new look.

Shake-ups of that kind, of course, are all the rage in the modern world. Everything must be rejigged, redone, remade, if it is not to be cast into the outer darkness. Hundreds of thousands of pounds must be spent on giving a new look to BT or BA, lest people refuse to make telephone calls or fly with a company that doesn't change its logo often enough. The schedule of Radio 4 must be overhauled, to show that it is a station



prepared to move with the times and not hidebound by dreadful, démodé ideas such as broadcasting *The Archers* at 1.40pm. Two o'clock is so much more modern somehow.

The modernising mania is unstoppable, irresistible. It wants to demolish the twin towers at Wembley, in order to satisfy some feebly iconoclastic desire to "break with tradition", and it similarly obliges the Queen to sign a football.

But everything, in fact, is meant to the moderniser: his reach knows no bounds and no logic. Why, for example, is the elegant design of the London taxi cab being

replaced with something that looks like a crouched black plastic toad? Why are nice old pubs renamed *The Frog and Firkin*? Why has Selfridges undergone a vastly expensive refit that leaves it looking like a suburban Harvey Nichols? To attract new custom, it would say, and maybe it will succeed, since so many of us want to be modern. But it simply feels as though all of Selfridges' solid old-world charm has been stripped away, leaving nothing but the scrubbed homogeneity of the modern world.

This is not an attack on newness. Making something new is positive. Modernising something old can, all too easily, be destructive and idiotic. Of course, things must be modernised to make them more convenient, accessible, cleaner or tidier. But it must be done with care: not just for the sake of it, from fear

of being left behind. A few years ago, there was a fashion - now, thankfully, discredited - for "restoring" paintings by removing all their nasty antique dirt. Away with the dirt went depth, contrast, mystery, magic. It is the perfect metaphor for the modernising mania.

Sometimes it seems as though a kind of fear lurks within the desire to be modern: fear of the secret strength of the old, the survivors from a less disposable age. Why else the mad urge to replace wood with plastic, works of art with their computerised representations, quirks and anomalies with shiny happy correctness? The creed of modernity does, perhaps, seem irresistible at the dawn of a new millennium. But what, in fact, does it mean? After all, even the year 999 probably felt modern at the time.

Scams for schools

The parents who cheat for their children's education. By Jack O'Sullivan

AT THIS time of year, Geoffrey Fallows, head of one of London's most sought-after state schools, may be found snooping around the neighbourhood. Should you ask, he'll say he is calling on a prospective pupil. But Mr Fallows may not be visiting for a cosy chat. He may be doing detective work: the educational equivalent of the TV licence detector van. He wants to know whether the girl on his list lives at that address. Sometimes he discovers that no one of that name has ever resided there.

This may sound like bizarre behaviour on the part of the headteacher of Camden School for Girls. But when your school is as popular as this one, and parents are pulling elaborate wheezes to gain admission, you have to be vigilant. The school's deadline for accepting pupils for the autumn term falls at the end of this month. Once a child has been accepted, parents are free to move miles away from the school and younger sisters also win the right to a place. So Mr Fallows has to do his homework now. His dilemma finds echoes all over Britain, wherever the best state schools are oversubscribed.

Mr Fallows remembers a couple who claimed that their marriage had broken up, and that the children were living with one parent in a flat near the school. "I had my suspicions," he says. "So I knocked on a few doors and asked the neighbours if there were any children living there. My inquiries led me to decide not to admit the daughter. It seems that the family was living miles away. They threatened to fight me through the courts and complained about the fact that I'd been asking questions. But they subsequently did nothing and I took that to be an admission of guilt."

Many parents find God, if temporarily, in order to secure a place at a church school. Others simply forge their ad-

resses. One west London couple who had recently split up applied to a London comprehensive miles from where they lived. On their application, they used the address of a flat belonging to the husband's new girlfriend. Letters which went out from the school duly received replies. No one ever suspected the ruse.

In the eyes of the authorities, such parents are cheating, although they are content to see parents move house to get within the catchment area of a good school.

But a clampdown could be imminent: the Local Government Association wants parents who caught out cheating to be fined £2,000 - the cost of a year's schooling to the taxpayer. Parents desperate to get their children into good schools are unlikely to be deterred, however. Angelina's parents tried to find places for her in good state secondary schools all over north London. No luck. "I was determined to find her a good school," says her mother. "Eventually, I told her that she would have to go and stay with her grandfather, who lives just around the corner from an excellent school. She stayed there for a few weeks through the admissions process, and got a place." Once admitted, Angelina returned to her home.

Another woman pulled a different scam. She had problems finding a place for her child in a primary school serving the rich London suburb of Hampstead. The child's name had been on the waiting-list since the age of two. But by the time he was five, no place was



How far would you go for a good school? Tom Pilston

forthcoming. "Eventually," says a friend, "she persuaded someone with children already at the school to say that they were cousins. That did the trick."

As schools catch on to parents' scams, the cheating gets increasingly desperate. One parent from north London failed to find a good school for her daughter, who was stuck in a failing comprehensive. A friend explains: "She found a counsellor and went along for

a few sessions with her daughter. She got her daughter to tell the counsellor how traumatised she was at her new school, how she was being bullied, and so on. I know she manufactured this story. But she persuaded the counsellor to appear at an appeal for her. And that was that. She got her place at the school she wanted."

Some names have been changed

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| <p>Legal Notices</p> <p>No. 60486 of 1998 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF ALLURING SERVICES LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 26th January 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the Company from £100,000 to £1,000. AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on Wednesday the 10th day of February 1999. ANY creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same. Dated this 26th day of January 1999. Silverman Shercliff, New City House, 71 Rington Street, London EC2A 4AY Solicitors to the Company</p> | <p>Unusual Gifts</p> <p>A NEWSPAPER for that special date. 1942-1988 most times available. Ideal birthday gift. Freeform. Write: 0171-293 0023. Or CALL FREE 0800 520 000.</p> <p>Metro Hearts</p> <p>February 14th Valentine's Day</p> <p>Don't forget to place your ad... Love is in the air so don't miss out! Call now to place your FREE Valentine's Day ad, or FREEPHONE 0800 216 351</p> <p>Chat Lines</p> <p>Adult Chat 4-11 Line And Direct 089361 109148</p> | <p>To advertise in this section please call the Classified Team on 0171 293 2347.</p> |
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1S
ou that
1?)

well on the day that Robin and
Gaynor got married.
I didn't even see the wedding
day - I was working.

Are you still interested in putting
Patrick Nye's name in the
How can you say that? He's not
not a "I'll be there" man, he's
more of a "I'll be there" man.

What was it that attracted you
initially to your former husband?
Patrick Nye was a very nice
and lovely man. He was also a
very affectionate man.

What would you say if one of your
children asked to read your book
about Patrick Nye?
The boys both read the book before
its publication date.

What is one of your happiest
memories?
My happiest memories are of
relaxing times with the family
the boys were growing up. I
the New York Times, and
giving them a good night's
around the house.

How do you relax?
I relax by reading. I read
with my family. I read
the New York Times.

NEXT WEEK
GARY ANNE...
[Image of Gary Anne...]
[Text about Gary Anne...]

chools
ication By Jack O'Sullivan

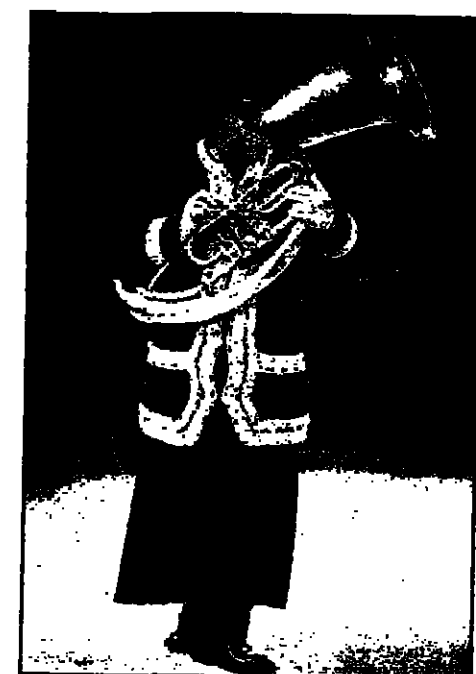


I want you to be a part of the
[Text about a school or educational program]

the world
in a
ferent light
[Image of a globe]
VSO



Hermès



Yohji Yamamoto



Raf Simons



Comme des Garçons



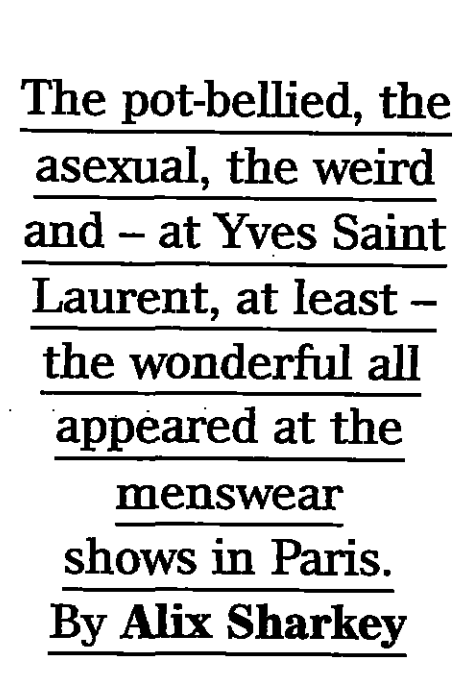
Kenzo



Walter Van Beirendonck



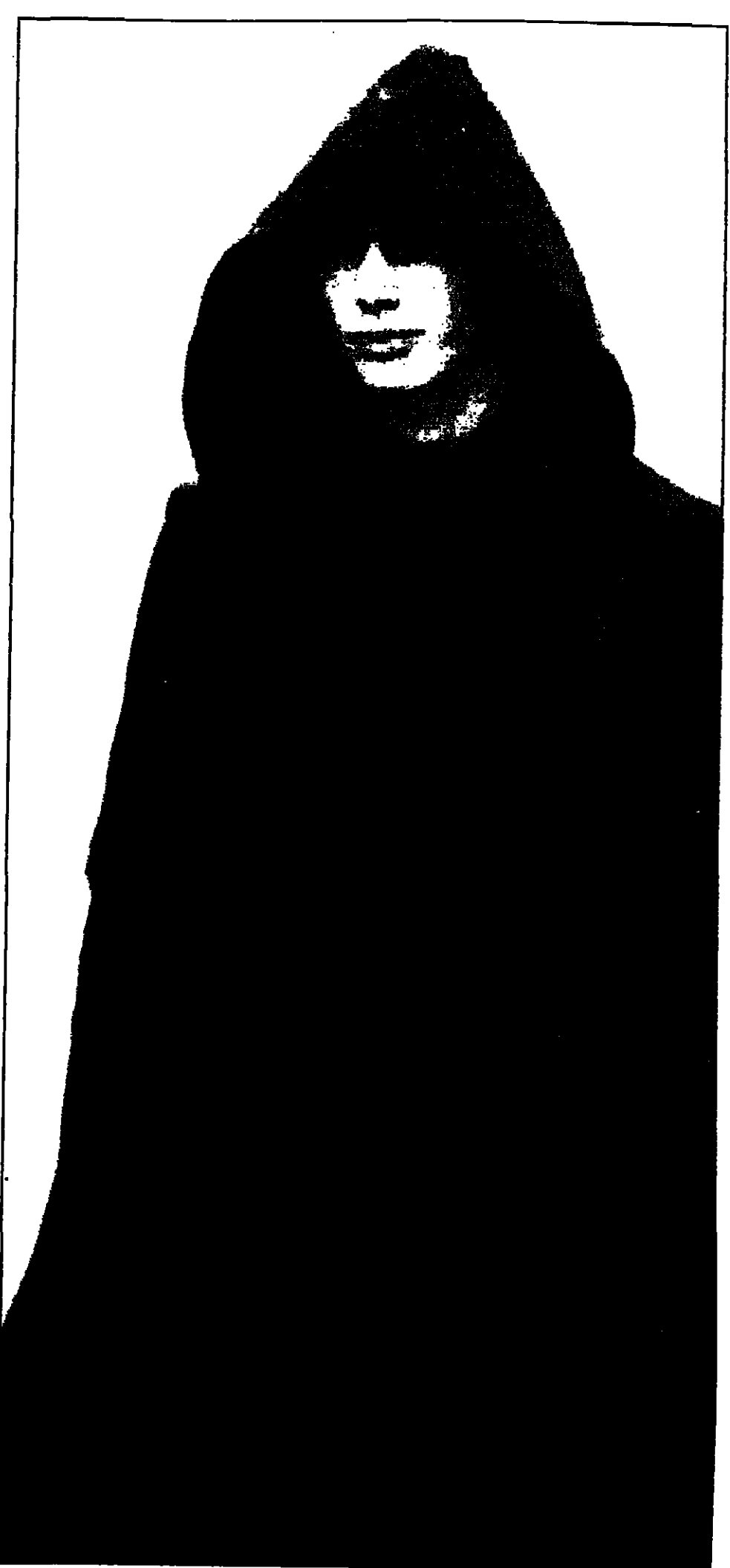
Dries Van Noten



Paul Smith



Yves Saint Laurent



Yves Saint Laurent

Photographs: Chris Moore/Andrew Thomas

The pot-bellied, the
asexual, the weird
and - at Yves Saint
Laurent, at least -
the wonderful all
appeared at the
menswear
shows in Paris.
By Alix Sharkey

Geek chic

If men's fashion week in Milan - home to Prada, Gucci and Armani - was all about status dressing, big bucks and glamour, Paris was a far more cerebral affair. There was little real excitement - except for the hit Yves Saint Laurent show - but the Paris-based designers showed real clothes for the thinking man of all shapes, ages and sizes.

Dries Van Noten showed in the old Bibliothèque Nationale, a reading room the size of a railway terminal, with cast-iron arches, woodland murals and glass chandeliers. The collection was a mix of classic and modern, with a focus on texture and color. He showed a long, dark coat with a wide collar, a pair of trousers with a wide waistband, and a pair of shoes with a wide sole.

Yohji Yamamoto showed in a small, dark room. He showed a long, dark coat with a wide collar, a pair of trousers with a wide waistband, and a pair of shoes with a wide sole.

Raf Simons showed in a small, dark room. He showed a long, dark coat with a wide collar, a pair of trousers with a wide waistband, and a pair of shoes with a wide sole.

Comme des Garçons showed in a small, dark room. He showed a long, dark coat with a wide collar, a pair of trousers with a wide waistband, and a pair of shoes with a wide sole.

Kenzo showed in a small, dark room. He showed a long, dark coat with a wide collar, a pair of trousers with a wide waistband, and a pair of shoes with a wide sole.

Walter Van Beirendonck showed in a small, dark room. He showed a long, dark coat with a wide collar, a pair of trousers with a wide waistband, and a pair of shoes with a wide sole.

Dries Van Noten showed in a small, dark room. He showed a long, dark coat with a wide collar, a pair of trousers with a wide waistband, and a pair of shoes with a wide sole.

notably scaled-down and curiously restrained collection, which didn't really come off.

Can you hear that whooshing sound? That's Paul Smith rocketing upmarket in a bid to join the Premier League of luxury labels dominated by Gucci, Prada and Hermès. Having now diffused himself into too many fragments (PS, Jeans, Sport and R Newbold labels), Smith seems intent on boosting his main line to stratospheric heights in a bid to add value to the house stock. It was the old "classics with a twist" chestnut, only this time the twist was... no twist. Seriously, this was Smith playing to his strengths, producing elegant and distinctively British menswear, with the gimmicks and tat finally discarded in favour of cavalry twill, tweed and suede in all the right colours and all the right weights.

The most cohesive look was that Manchester anorak-and-fishing hat moment so beloved of Oasis fans, which ain't saying much

to their own work. Having essentialised their style, they are no longer bound by it; instead of consciously stamping "identity" on to garments, everything they make is instantly recognisable. After 11 years and 22 shows, this is the point Véronique Michanlian has reached with her designs for Hermès menswear.

From the very first outfit this was an exercise in purity of design. A sublime, putty T-shirt here, a pair of black suede pants there, a three-button suit. There were no gimmicks, fuss or frills - just luxurious fabrics, exquisite colour combinations, the optimum balance of texture, weight and line. For those who know what they're looking at, the Hermès style is unmistakable. For those who don't, it's invisible. The perfect combination.

Which is exactly what Hedi Slimane, the 30-year-old Parisian designer of Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche, produced for his fourth and best collection for the house. The company director Pierre Bergé watched with an ecstatic smile as Slimane's YSL boys and men practically slithered along the catwalk - such was the slickness of the show. Slimane kept to a restrained palette of charcoal grey, black and white and punctuated it with a blast of cobalt blue. Let's not mince words here - this is, in the most part, a very gay aesthetic of men's dress, and all the more beautiful for it. High points were nude tulle T-shirts scattered with sequins and worn underneath absolutely perfect, classic YSL tuxedos; a long, slim, belted leather trench-coat and, finally, a pointy-hooded, three-quarter-length padded coat.

The young Belgian Raf Simons, original and daring though he may be, still feels obliged to "tag" his own designs, with little "r" logos on his beautiful turtle-neck sweaters, or suits with his own name visibly woven into the pinstripe. Strange, because his Gothic aesthetic and severely tailored silhouette are both instantly recognisable.

His trademark skinny, pubescent boys marched out bearing black banners, looking forlorn in inky, vampire-like capes.

It was wonderful theatre, and seductively sombre, but perhaps obscured the sensual quality of Simons' work, particularly the knitwear, which is actually soft, luxurious and welcoming. But the designer seems determined to offer the bleak, austere vision of Bowie's Thin White Duke period. Come to think of it, *Station to Station* would have made the perfect soundtrack as we trooped out into the night, searching for the train back to civilisation.



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[Map showing locations in New York City]

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THE INDEPENDENT

Yes, it has its faults, but the Lottery is without doubt the answer to every cash-strapped arts organisation's prayers. Wrong, says David Benedict. It's a disaster that has distorted funding for a generation

Lottery with violence

What's this? Good news in the murky waters of Lottery allocations? It's true. In one fell swoop, 80 arts organisations took a giant leap forward last week thanks to a very smart application made by the Independent Theatre Council.

The ITC is the management body representing small- and middle-scale performing arts companies, venues and individuals. It ranges from tiny organisations that only their devoted audiences have heard of to international success stories like Adventures in Motion Pictures, Scotland's Communicado and London's Bush Theatre. Now 80 of its neediest members have been given a major technological upgrade.

This Lottery award provides ill-fated companies with £4,000 worth of computer equipment including software packages, internet service provision and access to a website providing marketing, ticketing and communications back-up, plus an extra £1,425 worth of training. The difference this will make to the companies is out of all proportion to the size of the award but, sadly, such lateral thinking is the exception rather than the rule.

Without a doubt, the Lottery is the biggest disaster ever to befall arts funding in this country. Other than the newly-made millionaires, the only people who would give it an unequivocal thumbs up would be the hundreds of arts consultants who have made a killing out of it. Almost every arts organisation which has had dealings with the Lottery has a horror story about some of these "experts". Their skills in systems analysis are irretrievable but their specific knowledge of the relevant art form is often insultingly lacking. Ignorance notwithstanding, most of them charge exorbitant fees, earning as much in a day as their clients will pay their performers in a week, or even three.

It had seemed like such a good idea at the time. In the notorious cash-strapped arts world, which organisation would be foolish enough to turn down the chance to put in a

bid to renovate, refurbish or rebuild the fabric of a theatre, gallery or concert hall? In the long years of standstill funding which ignored inflation, major capital investment in buildings for art was about as likely as the development of a porcine airforce. Suddenly, new money was being poured into "good causes". Administrators rubbed their hands and architects began drawing up plans.

Last week, for the first time in 17 years, Pina Bausch's company came to London. At last, in the shape of the rebuilt Sadlers Wells, we had a dance house big enough for this world-class talent. The new theatre is one of the most prestigious and most necessary of the Lottery schemes, yet within months of its opening the building shows signs of wear and much of the detailing looks like what it is: a rush job finished off with too little money. It's a victim of the fiasco of matching funding. The Lottery provides only 75 per cent of the money for every scheme. The bidding organisation must raise the rest itself. In the case of Sadler's Wells, tireless fundraisers failed to meet the original target. This is no surprise. Just how many people are there with tens of thousands of pounds to give away who seek no direct return on their investment? And how do they choose between the increasingly desperate pleas from all the arts organisations, all chasing the same money?

The Lottery has been catastrophic for several reasons. The most common prob-

lem has been the "white elephant" scenario: buildings such as the Cambridge Arts Theatre have gone up, only to collapse artistically as the Lottery has failed to provide the funding to run them, or to pay for the art and artists to put in them. The rules which allowed that to happen have changed - to the chagrin of those who failed under the unworkable guidelines - but this crucial division between money for buildings and the work they produce has confused the very people this money was aimed at: the public.

An even more insidious problem

has been the Lottery's miserable handing of its publicity. Large grants to important London-based schemes were badly timed, with the result that a sceptical media has often taken deserving arts organisations to the cleaners. One effect of this is that money for London has now been capped in favour of a regional programme ignoring the size of the capital - home to a fifth of the country's population - not to mention its international arts role. The Barbican is the latest organisation to fail to win Lottery money. Understandably, its director John Tusa

wants to know why. One possible reason is that other London venues' needs are deemed more urgent. Lack of London provision means that several venues now face closure on grounds of health and safety. It's all become horribly, dangerously competitive.

Worst of all, the public now mistakenly believes the arts to be swimming in money. When the Lottery began, the then arts minister Virginia Bottomley announced in these pages that statutory arts funding would not be affected. Three weeks later, it was cut. Trying to make a case for increased arts funding was never easy. In the wake of the Lottery it is now virtually impossible.

Labour's record has provided few reasons to be cheerful. Culture Secretary Chris Smith may have sorted out the Covent Garden fiasco, but there are worrying signs that his department is courting public favour by bowing before the great god "efficiency" and "downsizing" the "bureaucracy" of the Arts Council. It seems the Government is seeking to take direct control of funding in a deeply undemocratic way.

In all this time, there has been virtually no discussion about the politics of arts funding. A few individuals have raised voices in defence of their own organisations, but the wider debate has been notable for its absence. Arts Council leaders should have been the most eloquent advocates, but past and present incumbents have remained silent almost to the point of negligence. Clearly, they believed that their

responsibility was to the Government, rather than the nation's art and artists.

In order to ameliorate this mess further assurances should be demanded for the statutory provision of arts funding. The level of Lottery matching funding should be lowered - why the value of an arts project should be assessed by its ability to fundraise has never been satisfactorily explained.

A clear national strategy must be built up through far more consultation with local authorities and regional bodies on how Lottery money can be spent to improve the infrastructure of arts provision: bringing arts to the people and people to the arts. Current unstrategic thinking allows large-scale organisations with influential board members to win Lottery support at the expense of marginalised, smaller schemes.

The Arts Council's handling of the Lottery needs closer examination. The last annual report revealed that including "soft" commitments - those offered but not finally signed and sealed - the council was over-committed to the tune of more than £270m. (It is for this reason that London has been squeezed.)

The goalposts are moving yet again next year, but no one knows what the new criteria will be, making it impossible to plan or draft potential submissions. The cost to arts organisations in terms of time, money and labour, has been incalculable with hopes dashed due to circumstances beyond their control. The Lottery must come up with a clear plan for London that organisations can work within. It's fashionable to compare the arts with industry. No commercial set-up would countenance working within these constraints.

The Lottery story is reminiscent of the fairy tale with the moral: be careful what you wish for... you might get it. Just a few years ago, priceless jewels appeared to be falling from politicians' lips. Yet, like most fairy tales, it didn't all come true in the way that anyone expected. And unless the arts world gets its act together, the ending is going to be far from happy.

Level playing

POP

MARK KING
SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE
LONDON

SOMETIMES IT seems that no pop music of the past remains permanently beyond the pale. Boy George and Culture Club are back in the charts, and those fellow Eighties clotheshorses Duran Duran and the Human League have recently toured successfully. But the rehabilitation of Mark King, former leader of the quietly huge Level 42, may prove to be more hopeful and welcome.

King's previous band represented the forgotten side of that bright decade, a world of furry dice and soporific jazz-funk, sex in Sierras and white stilettos.

He was the Man with the Golden Thumb, a bass player so good that his hands were insured for a fortune - and he still trades on it. On his entrance he proffered his instrument to his loyal supporters, and his four-piece band kicked straight into Level 42's hit "Hot Water".

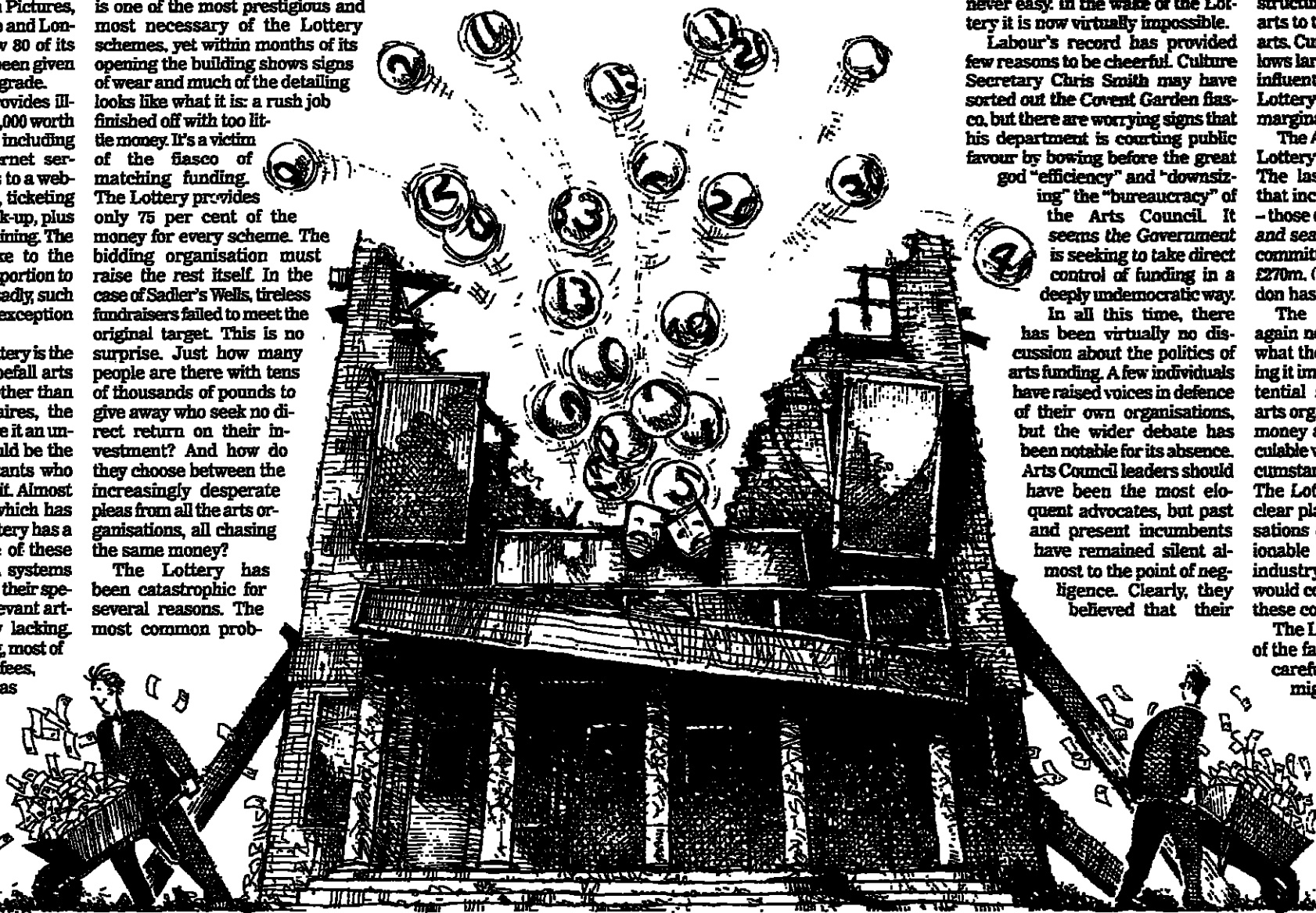
Remarkably, they sounded exactly as they used to, even down to the now-dated stabs on synth and superfluous virtuosity smeared all over what is at heart a simple pop song.

Unsurprisingly, the set was based around old favourites such as "Love Games" and "It's Over". But the negatives were the same as ever - trite lyrics, a tendency to show off to no great effect, and frantic pacing. Songs from King's new album *One Man* were simpler, but the ghastly "Changing the Guard" with its blustering chorus "Is this the end of the old guard? I wouldn't count on it", was a give-away: such self-justification is usually the sign of an artist painfully aware of his or her own irrelevance.

Of course, King is still a terrific bassist, his prodigious bottom end carrying "Lessons in Love", which frankly would have benefited from the absence of the other instruments.

Apparently *The Fast Show's* John Thomson was a huge Level 42 fan, but even in his guise as presenter of the spoof "Jazz Club" he would have been hard-put to say "Mm, n-i-c-e" about this reminder of a piece of pop history best forgotten.

STEVE JELBERT



Jim Robbins

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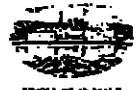
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The natural force of gravity

ON SATURDAY, the Canadian pianist Louis Lortie reached the fourth recital in his Beethoven series, with four Sonatas written in 1800 and 1801, including the two Op27, subtitled "Quasi una fantasia". Beethoven was aiming at more flexibility and asked for all the movements of the Op 27 Sonatas to be played without a break. Lortie also ran the movements together in the other two Sonatas, Op 26 and 28, smoothing things over with just a hint of dismissiveness.

CLASSICAL

LOUIS LORTIE,
ASHLEY WASS
WIGMORE HALL, LONDON

He's a very rational pianist, and there were no idiosyncratic touches - not to me at least, any revelations. But to someone coming to Beethoven's Sonatas relatively new, Lortie is a reliable, straightforward guide.

Monday night was the Wigmore debut of the young English pianist Ashley Wass,

winner of the 1997 London Piano Competition. Behind his deeply considered programme hovered the ghosts of three great pianists: Rachmaninov and Busoni, with their arrangements of movements from Bach violin Partitas; and Horowitz, with Samuel Barber's mighty *Sonata* of 1949, which he first made widely known. Instead of emulating Horowitz's special brand of brilliance, Wass brought his own integrity to this monumental, and at times, frighten-

ing work. The slow movement, in Wass's hands, seemed genuinely deep and grand without any suggestion of posturing. Wass's own character as a pianist is one of natural gravity and strength through understatement. Which served Beethoven's "32 Variations in C minor" very well indeed, and saved them from seeming like a glorified set of exercises.

The spirit of Bach, filtered through a late Romantic twilight, pervades Cesar Franck's "Prelude Chorale" and

"Fugue", which ended the recital. Here, Wass's unforced singing line and sense of orchestral depth, and his instinct for distinguishing between contrapuntal structure and colouristic texture, combined gloriously to reaffirm this work as one of the sublime achievements of 19th-century keyboard music.

ADRIAN JACK

The next recital in Louis Lortie's Beethoven series is on Sunday, 4pm, 0171-935 2141

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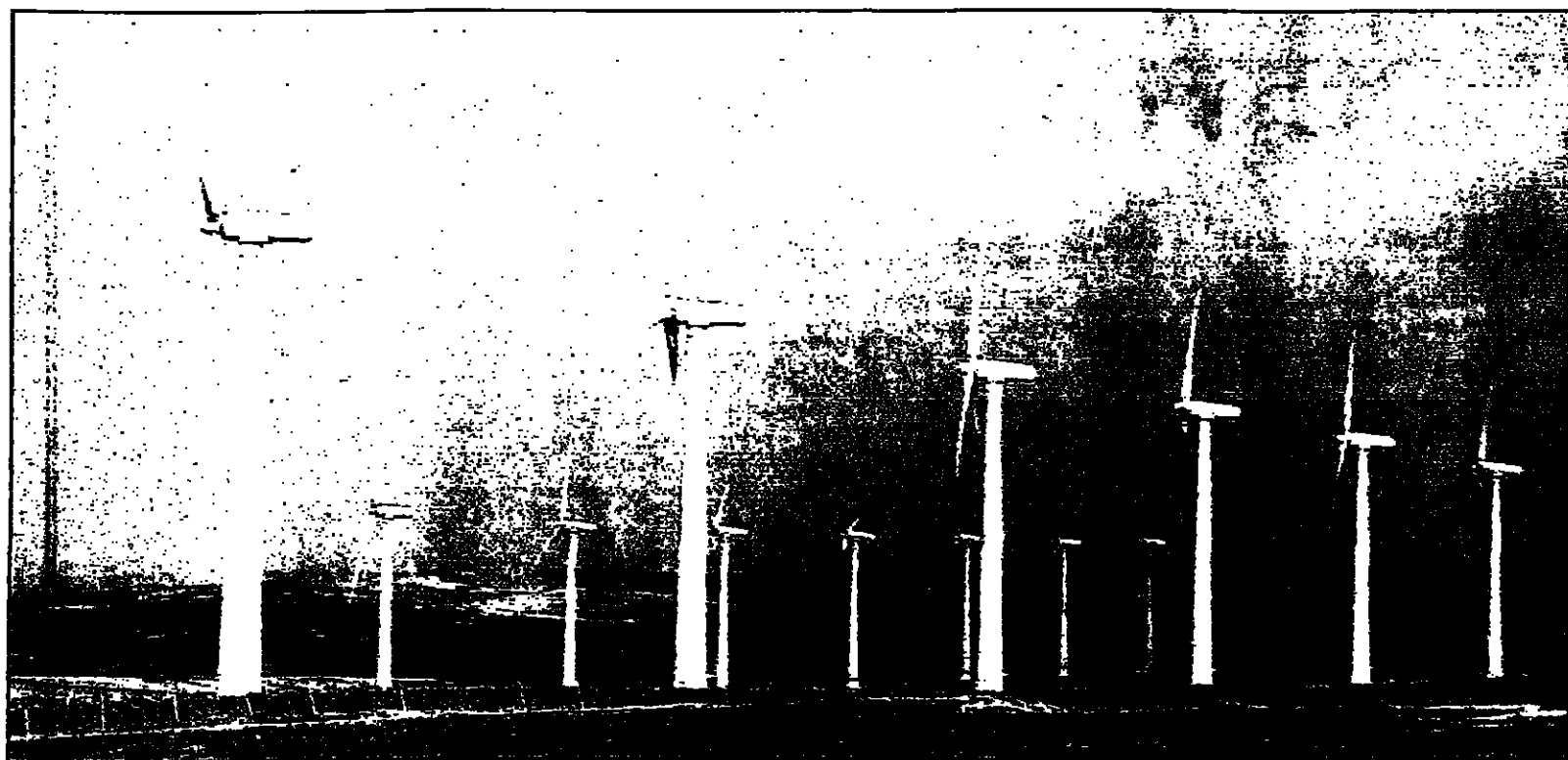
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Money and morality

Does anyone really want to buy shares in a company that destroys rainforests, makes landmines, or helps prop up an undemocratic regime? Opinion polls suggest not. Most of us would like to see our investments run on ethical and environmental principles.

Far fewer of us – barely a fifth – realise that there is an ethical investment option, with a wide enough range of products currently available to cover most of our requirements. These products range from PEP-able unit and investment trusts, through personal pensions, to endowment savings plans that can be used to pay off a mortgage.

The growth of the ethical sector has also been rapid, with more than £2.2bn under management in unit and investment trusts alone. The largest of these funds, Friends Provident's Stewardship unit trust, controls assets worth more than £870m. Charities and a growing number of local authority and trade union pen-

Beginning a series on ethical finances, Iain Morse looks at how to invest with a clear conscience

sion schemes use ethical or environmental criteria to "screen" potential investments. Charities alone currently invest more than £10bn in this way.

Tessa Tennant, head of research at NPT's Global Care Fund, says: "Ethical investment is no longer seen as cranky or bad for your pocket. It has entered the mainstream."

So how do ethical funds differ from the non-ethical? They use negative and positive screens to avoid and select certain areas of investment. For instance, the Stewardship fund avoids animal testing and the production and sale of alcohol, and applies no fewer than nine negative screens.

But critics argue that using negative criteria achieves little in terms of changing the practice of those companies whose shares are not bought by ethical fund-managers. Much here depends on the use of positive

screening, and a new style of pro-active shareholding, with fund managers trying to bring about changes in policy among the company managements they deal with.

While some funds, such as Scottish Equitable's Ethical unit trust, have no positive screening, longer-established ones like the Stewardship or NPT's Global Care unit trust, promote change in this way.

If you want not just to avoid certain business areas but also to support others, then the positive screens used by a fund may be as important as the negative ones when you make a choice between them. Look also at the types of contact maintained between your ethical fund manager and the companies they invest in. As an example, Aberdeen Prolific's Ethical unit trust uses eight negative screens, but only two positive ones, and does not

talk to company management on ethical issues. By comparison, the Stewardship fund has eight positive screens, carries out its own ethical research, talks to companies on ethical issues and makes on-site visits.

This shows how much these funds can differ: but the use of negative and positive criteria does give them one feature in common: they hold a higher percentage of shares in small to medium-sized companies, and a smaller percentage in large companies, than their non-ethical equivalents.

Understanding how this can affect fund performance is important if you decide to choose an ethical investment. Shares in small companies are inherently more volatile than those of large ones.

For instance, about 70 per cent of the daily value of all shares traded on the London Stock Exchange are in the 100

largest firms. Yet because of negative screening, most ethical funds will invest in no more than 20 or 30 of these. This means that if you invest in an ethical fund, you should be doing so over at least the medium term – say, five years – and not expect short-term gains.

This is not just because of the size of the companies, but also their type of business. Many are providers of goods or services in areas ranging from protection of the environment to public transport, and from energy efficiency to recycling consumer waste.

Richard Singleton, of Friends Provident, argues: "Very often we are helping to develop the industries of the future. Take pollution. There is a long-term benefit both in environmental terms and for shareholders if a company can anticipate future regulatory changes and build these into current operations. Today we are seeing industries having to clear up after themselves. Surely it would have been less expensive for them to have avoided this in the first place."

An early start on the financial facts of life

Alongside sex education, schoolchildren need a steer when it comes to monetary matters. By John Andrew

THERE IS something curious – and slightly sad – about the fact that sex education features in the National Curriculum, but personal finance does not. Perhaps teachers do not feel so confident about the financial "facts of life".

The evidence for a need for greater financial awareness is overwhelming. In 1995, the National Foundation for Educational Research was commissioned by NatWest to undertake a survey of adult learning needs related to financial literacy. This revealed that only a third of the population understood the meaning of "gross" and "net" interest, and that 40 per cent of young workers and 28 per cent of the general population did not realise that 10 per cent of £200 is more than £25.

Recently, the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (AUIF), the unit trust trade body, published the latest findings from the Financial Awareness and Consumer Education Tracking Study.

Each month a sample of 1,000 people are asked 14 questions covering a wide range of personal finance topics. They are the same questions, and will be changed only when circumstances dictate. To preserve the integrity of the survey, the questions cannot be revealed. The study revealed that there had been no improvement in the knowledge of personal finance over the previous 12 months.

Those surveyed increasingly recognise that an understanding of personal finance is of fundamental importance to their independence. Many bemoan the fact that they were never taught anything about it at school. AUIF therefore found it surprising to discover that 72 per cent of the population either believes that personal finance is now a core subject in the National Curriculum for secondary education, or does not know whether it is included.

Thanks to the Personal Finance Education Group (PPEG), progress is being made. This consortium of financial service industry representatives, regulators, government officials, the Consumers Association and educationists believes that greater attention to financial matters in the National Curriculum is the surest way to help young people make independent, informed decisions about their finances and long-term security.

One early finding was that despite companies in the financial sector preparing educational material and forwarding it to schools, it was not being used. The PPEG has therefore produced a series of interlinking initiatives to help

advantage of the free material supplied by financial services companies. In the past what should be generic information has bordered on advertising material. The PPEG has therefore issued guidelines for sponsored material.

The Learning Framework is currently being piloted in schools in Manchester, Kent and central London. Some 24 schools are involved, with different backgrounds: primary and secondary; urban and rural; large and small; single-sex and co-educational; and maintained and independent.

A range of curriculum approaches is being tested to validate the Learning Framework in a number of contexts. The pilot is being carefully monitored by the PPEG. This is a step in the right direction. However, a fundamental problem remains. Although PPEG research reveals that 77 per cent of secondary school teachers recognise the importance of personal finance education, only 10 per cent feel confident to teach it. A further barrier is seen to be "lack of time" because of the breadth of the National Curriculum.

So what can parents do to ensure that their children are financially aware? Victoria Nye, a founder member of the PPEG, has this advice: "Parents should ask schools to include reference to personal finance when developing basic skills such as numeracy, literacy and communications. Also, during the school holidays parents can help their children become canny consumers. Everyday activities such as shopping, cooking and DIY tasks can all be low-key lessons in personal finance."

Teachers may obtain copies of the brochures mentioned above from: Roshan Bailey, Project Manager, PPEG, c/o ABI, 31 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7HQ, 0171 216 7550, or e-mail: roshan.bailey@diol.piper.com

Only a third of the population understand the meaning of 'gross' and 'net' interest

with teaching personal finance in schools.

The brochure Learning Framework sets out learning objectives for pupils aged five to 16. These include understanding the concept of money, money management, and making financial decisions. It suggests classroom activities linked into all subjects in the current National Curriculum.

This is supplemented by Opportunities in the Curriculum, which goes through the National Curriculum identifying points where personal finance topics are relevant to subjects such as maths, English, history and geography. The Directory of Resources not only lists the sponsored resource material available, but also indicates how these fit into the Learning Framework.

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It's a private matter

The idea of becoming a plc no longer seems quite so attractive. And many publicly quoted companies are retreating into private hands. By Roger Trapp

Time was when it seemed that just about every business was set on becoming a public company. After all, floating a business often makes its founder rich beyond most people's dreams. However, the notion does not seem to be as attractive as it once was. Research published last week shows an explosion in the number of publicly quoted companies that are retreating into private hands.

It is not the first time this sort of thing has happened. Back in 1989 there was a near-doubling in the number of public-to-private transactions in the UK. Accordingly, the more cynically minded might view this as the sort of free spending that is typical at the end of rising markets.

But those involved in funding the deals say this is different. Tom Lamb, managing



The stockmarket's tendency to chase big business has made smaller companies less eager to go public Reuters

Institutional investors are welcomed buy-outs as a good way of getting out of 'illiquid' shareholdings

director UK of Barclays Private Equity, which, with the accountants Deloitte & Touche, sponsored the study by the Centre of Management Buy-out Research at Nottingham University's business school, says there has been a much more dramatic increase in the number of deals - 29 last year, compared with just seven in 1997, while in 1998 there were 13, compared with seven the previous year.

Moreover, the value of the deals is lower. Many transactions in the late Eighties were completed after hostile bid battles involving outside managers. This time, only seven of the situations involved companies valued at more than £100m.

It is this that leads Mr Lamb and Chris Ward, head of private equity at Deloitte's corporate finance business, to conclude that the level of activity is down to the particular plight of smaller quoted companies.

The division of the stock market into high-flying telecommunications and other hi-tech stocks, and the remainder of the market, is familiar to most observers. But

there is another split - between larger public companies and the rest.

As a result, what are known as "small cap" companies are likely to be ignored by investors. Though they may be performing well in trading terms, this lack of interest in their stock tends to lead to underperformance in the share price, which in turn leads to a vicious circle, whereby the underperformance of the shares puts off would-be investors.

Nor does the issue have only a domestic dimension. Mr Lamb sees signs of institutional investors looking at stock markets on a pan-European basis and rais-

ing the level at which they begin to invest.

As a result, institutional investors are becoming less sceptical of management motives in such deals, and are welcoming buy-outs and similar transactions as a way of getting out of "illiquid", or little-traded, shareholdings at a premium.

At the same time, founders of businesses are becoming more sophisticated. Whereas previously they might have aimed at floating the company merely to see the letters "plc" after its name, now they are more likely to assess what it is they seek to gain. With other means of raising finance more available than before, going public without

a plan can lead to managers of such businesses into a cul-de-sac, argues Mr Lamb.

But it is not all good news. The venture capitalists who back such deals will have to work harder if they are to achieve the "exits" by which they make their profits.

Since such indifference to smaller companies is likely to continue, they are unlikely to be able to produce quick returns to the stock market. Instead, Mr Ward expects there to be a trend towards selling such businesses to other companies, or acquisitions and restructurings aimed at making the entities larger before attempting a return to the market.

Time for action



THE TEMP

THERE'S GOING to be no work done this lunch time because Hearstone Futures have announced, after sacking 20 per cent of the staff last month, that their jobs are to be shared out among everyone left, increasing their workload by 25 per cent. The chairman and the chief executive have, coincidentally, received 17 per cent pay rises.

Management are using phrases like "tough decisions", "global recession", "if you're not part of the solution you're part of the problem". The employees, meanwhile, with the prospect of seeing less of their families, more of each other and no change to their pay packets, have called a union meeting.

I'm a great believer in the union movement, but have never had the opportunity either to join one or to attend a meeting, there being no union for down-trodden temporary workers and if there were, I'm not sure what we'd discuss: the plenty-more-where-you-came-from rule, perhaps? I was thrilled when Candy suggested I might want to come and watch.

I should have remembered that we live in an age where *The Strawbs'* satire on Seventies workforce obduracy, "Part of the Union", is used, seemingly without irony, as an advertising jingle for personal pensions.

Sally, union rep, waited until everyone had stopped gossiping, then said: "Well, we've a lot to get through. Does anyone want to kick off the debate on the new proposals?" and a profound silence fell. Nobody, it seemed, wanted to stand out. Finally, someone put their hand up and Sally gave him the floor.

"I think we should vote on whether to discuss the matter," he said to the group.

"Thanks, Ken," said Sally. "Does anyone want to second that?"

A young woman put her hand up. "OK, thanks, Jan. All in favour?"

"No," said Jan. "I wasn't seconding. I was going to say that it was a waste of time to vote on it."

"Good point," said Sally. "But it's been proposed now, and if we start a debate on whether or not to vote on this, we'll never get to debate the proposals."

"Oh, yeah," said Jan. "Then I might as well just second it, then."

Everyone in voted in favour. Finally, Ken stood up and started the ball rolling.

"They can't seriously expect us to take this lying down. I work more than my contracted hours as it is. We must do something."

"Anyone else?" said Sally.

"Yes." A lad with spots over by the kitchen hatch stuck his hand up. "I just want to say that they can't be allowed to treat us like this. I don't want to work extra hours for no more money, and I'm sure nobody else does, either."

And then the floodgates opened. Once a couple of people had had their say, everyone, it seemed, wanted to repeat them. The clock ticked away over Sally's head as voice after voice was added to the consensus: "It's a disgrace." "They can't get away with it." "I'm not paid enough as it is."

Lunch hour came to an end, and people started looking at their watches. And on dined the down-trodden: "My wife never sees me as it is." "I worked 50 hours a week last month." "Do they think we're machines?"

And I realised that the function of democracy in the Nineties is to give everyone so much opportunity to get their voice heard that they never have the time to take any action. Finally, people started edging toward the door, surreptitiously slipping their coats on, and Sally decided to call a halt.

"OK," she said. "So we take a vote on whether to take a ballot on whether to get the Electoral Reform Society to run an official ballot on whether we censure the company. All those in favour? Against? Motion carried."

"Now!" she yelled at the retreating backs, "we've some business left over from last time. If you remember, we had to stop before we could vote on whether to put the procedures in effect to take a ballot on censuring the company over the redundancies. Anyone got anything to add? No? OK. All those in... yes, Jack, you had something to say..."

My boss is a low-maintenance celebrity

A YEAR ago I would be horrified at the idea of working in TV. I was involved in the arts as a stage manager and administrator for a black theatre group and, used to scrimping and saving, saw TV people as having more money than they knew what to do with. I never wanted to be a media bimbo. But five months ago I got frustrated by the theatre's emphasis on burns on seats, and applied for a job at Anglia.

I made it clear at the interview that I wanted the job to be mutually beneficial to us both - I would bring skills while learning new ones. Initially I was attracted by the admin aspect but the production and the technical side soon fascinated me. I was employed as a programme coordinator but during my first week Trisha's PA was promoted and I was given her job.

After the upheavals around Vanessa Feltz's sudden departure from ITV it was a challenge for all of us. I quickly saw how hard people work for their money. Although I hadn't seen Vanessa, or any of the other daytime talk shows, I was aware of their importance. Trisha is a very different type. A Vanessa or a Jerry Springer type. She seems a little more human to me. She never acts like a celebrity in the office; she's just plain Trisha, and no one suddenly stands

to attention when she arrives. When we work late, so does she.

Her personality hasn't changed since she became famous; she will still take her children for a burger down the high street. She's also very much part and parcel of the Norwich community. Bizarrely, Trisha can walk through reception and none of the audience will recognise her until she's in the studio. She is a low-maintenance celebrity to work for, because she's very self-sufficient.

I see little of her personal life because she doesn't rely on anyone to look after her children or her domestic life. The fact of working with an Afro-Caribbean woman makes me feel not exactly smug, but pleased. Norwich isn't a great ethnic capital and I think that Trisha and I are the only two black women within this building. She was in LA the other day and Whoopi Goldberg told her it was great to know that a sister was doing so well.

Most of my day is spent working on shows, liaising with the producers, booking guests for the show, organising travel and hospitality and processing invoices. Like everyone in the team, I always have my eye out for stories. I will never read the Sunday papers in the same way again. I

I WORK FOR...

MONICA PATEL IS PA TO TRISHA GODDARD, PRESENTER OF THE DAYTIME ITV CHAT SHOW 'TRISHA'



'The production side soon fascinated me,' says Monica Patel Bryn Colton

also help Trisha with the enormous amount of correspondence we get from viewers seeking her advice. She tries to answer every one. People relate to her own experiences, including her personal tragedies, because they are important to the way she presents. She knows about deaths and suicides and as an experienced counsellor she can take it all on board. Whoever talent-spotted her knew what they were doing.

Both Trisha and her audience are genuine; there is no acting involved. We don't force people on to the show; it's always something they want to do. Trisha will talk to guests after the show and give them advice, and she also takes notes home and discusses them with her husband. Some guests have terrible life stories, which are distressing. I often wonder how Trisha deals with it. I know she drinks masses of peppermint tea to relax, and offers it to the guests. She also laughs a lot with the team; we need to see the funny side of life.

While the programme is being broadcast the phones don't stop and we have to be ready with a response because people will call about anything - from wanting to contact the guests to complaining about the colour of Trisha's shirt. We also frequently get calls from people who claim to be old

friends of Trisha's from Australia. But we have every respect for our viewers because these are the people we rely on. I now know that audience numbers are as important in TV as in the theatre.

I also work for our editor, Sally-Ann Howard, who is much more high-maintenance than Trisha because her work load is huge and she's in constant touch with people such as Dianne Nemes, controller of daytime TTV. Sally-Ann and I are very close; she uses me both as a sounding board for ideas and as a means of monitoring the morale of her staff. She's also sympathetic when you are having the odd hormonal moment. It's good to be working for so many strong women. I think I've always been confident in my abilities to work hard and succeed but I wasn't always so confident about bosses; however, working with Trisha and Sally-Ann has been a joy. I don't think Trisha would ever say that the success of the programme was solely down to her; she knows that it's about team magic. I'm off soon to explore new pastures and try out TV drama, and I'd also like to resume my work as a storyteller. But it will be a real wrench to leave. I would recommend this job to anyone.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

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WEDNESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

A CONCERT by the London Sinfonietta of three new works from European composers, including *Sur Incises* by Pierre Boulez features in Performance on 3 (7.45pm R2). The latter is the subject of a profile on BBC2 tonight and also talks about his famous lost symphony during the concert. In Night Waves (10.45pm R3), Patrick Wright assesses



Patrick Wright

new up to that point. Shortly after completing the piece, Boulez lost the manuscript. Over 50 years on, he recalls the incident, describes his emotions and remembers how the work might have sounded.

8.50 Concert, part 2. Pierre Boulez: *Sur Incises*. 9.40 Postscript. Patrick Wright talks to five unusual, witty and engaging figures on the cultural scene who are distinguished by their originality and imagination. 3. Derek Bailey. Free-improvising guitarist of nearly 50 years' standing. Derek Bailey was also co-founder of the first independent, musician-owned record company in Britain.

10.00 Ensemble. In the first of two programmes, Penny Gore investigates how composers down the ages have transcribed and reworked the music of their predecessors. 10.45 Night Waves. Patrick Wright reviews a major retrospective of the paintings of Patrick Caulfield at the Hayward Gallery, London. See *Pick of the Day*.

11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Taverer. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS: Midweek

9.45 Serial: Best American Essays. 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour. 10.00 NEWS: Murder, Magic and Medicine. 11.00 Tomorrow at the Same Time. (R) 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Board Game. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers. 2.45 Afternoon Play: Portrait. 3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time. 3.30 The Speech Makers. 3.45 This Sceptical Isle. 4.00 NEWS: All in the Mind. 4.30 Thinking Allowed. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Like They've Never Been Gone. (R) 7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7.45 Front Row. Mark Lawson chairs the arts programme. 7.45 Speaking for Themselves. Ten dramatised excerpts from the letters of Britain's great wartime leader and his wife Clementine, taken from the newly published collection edited by their daughter, Mary Soames. With Alex Jennings as Winston, Sylvester as Churchill, and Helen Bonham as Clementine, Part 3. 8.00 NEWS: The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk and regulars Janet Daisey, David Starkey, Ian Hargreaves and David Cook investigate the moral questions behind the week's news. 8.45 Gerry's Bar. Gerry Anderson presents a final round of extraordi-

nary tales from ordinary life. 9.00 NEWS: Frontiers. Exploding stars viewed from a mountain-top in Chile show the Big Bang is still happening. Peter Evans pieces together what this means for our expanding universe. 9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversation. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sound of Trumpets. By John Mortimer, abridged in ten parts by Neville Teller and read by Rik Mayall. Part 8. 11.00 NEWS: Sean Lock's 15 Minutes of Misery. Sean Lock, winner of a Time Out Comedy Award, presents the last of six programmes detailing a comic view of life from his lower block flat. With Kevin Eldon and Hattie Hayline. 11.15 For One Horrible Moment. 11.30 The Cheese Shop Presents: The Butter Factor. Comedy sketches with a host of new and established characters. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Lemons. Tale. By Ken Saro-Wiwa (3/10). 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 1.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. RADIO 4 LW (98kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News: Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

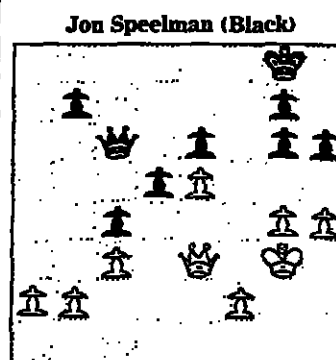
RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 90.9kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night. Full coverage of all the night's action, including FA Cup fourth-round replays. Plus the National Lottery Draw. 10.00 LiteNight. Football phone-in with Richard Lush: 0500 909693. 11.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. CLASSIC FM (100.1-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 6.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. A programme of works by Elgar. Overture 'In the South'. Academy of St Martin in the Fields/Neville Martin. Pomp and Circumstance Marches. Scottish NO/Alexander Gibson. Falstaff. Scottish NO/Alexander Gibson. FRODO, English Northern PO/Deirdre Lloyd Jones. 11.00 Alan Hawkshaw. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths. VIRGIN RADIO (125, 167-126kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.30 Harris Evans. 9.30 Mark Forster. 1.00 Robert. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Pete & Geoff. 10.00 James Martin. 10.00 Steve Power. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen. WORLD SERVICE RADIO (96kHz LW) 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Meridian (LIVE). 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Eyewitness. 3.00 The World Today. 3.30 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Service Report. 3.45 In sight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (400-700). TALK RADIO 6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Farrar. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Justice with Jacobs. 10.00 Anna Rumburn. 3.00 Peter Deasy. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 James Whale. 12.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

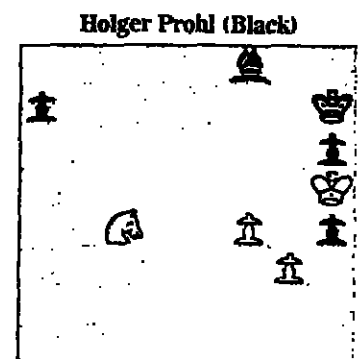
JON SPEELMAN

THE BUNDESLIGA met last weekend as usual at several different venues throughout Germany. Even in the absence of Michael Adams playing his match with Seirawan in Bermuda and Piket and Kasimdzhanov at Wijk aan Zee, my team, Solingen, were strong favourites both against Hamburg on Saturday and against Magdeburg on Sunday and duly kept our perfect score. I had a fairly torrid time playing not particularly well in the middle-game but managing to gain a whole point in two endgames.



Jon Speelman (Black)

Owing to the doubled g pawns, Black looks slightly worse. But: 34 f4! h5! 35 Kh3?? d4! 36 cxd4? 36 Qxd4 Qb3+ 37 Kh2 hxd4 38 Kg4 Qg2+ 39 Qg2 Qxb2 40 Kh3? 40 d5 was the last chance since the plausible Qe2+? leads to a drawn pawn ending after 41 Qb3 Qd3+ 42 Kd3 ends 43 Ke3 c3 44 Kd3 d4 45 a4 - my king can't advance without allowing his e pawn through. 40... Qxd4 41 Kg2



Jon Speelman (White to play)

The outside passed pawn ought to be decisive - though if it were removed for the white knight 43 f4 would draw at once! 43 Ne3 a5 44 Nd5 Bc5! 45 Nh4! The only way back. 45... Bd4 (45... Bf2 46 Kg4 a4 47 Nb3 a4 48 Nd2 a2 49 Nb3 probably also won). 46 Nf5 Bf2!! 47 g4! a4 48 g5 Kg4 49 f4g5 a3 50 g6+ Kg8 51 Kh6 Bb4!! (In the game, my opponent allowed a draw with 51... a2?? 52 Ne7+ Kb8 53 g7+ Kxe7 54 g8Q a1Q 55 Qg7+ Kg7 56 Kg7 Kg7+ 57 Kg7 58 Nd4 Bf5 59 Nd2 a2 54 Kh5 Kb8! 55 Kh6 Bb4 56 Kg5 Kc7 57 Kf5. (If 57 Kh6 Kd6 58 g7 Bxg7+ 59 Kxg7 Kc5 wins by a tempo.) 57... Kd6 58 Kc4 Kc5 59 Kd3 Bg7 60 Kd2 Kc4 61 Kd1 Kd3 62 Kc1 Bb8 63 Kd1 Kd2 64 Kd2 Bg7 65 Kd1 Bc3 etc.

BRIDGE

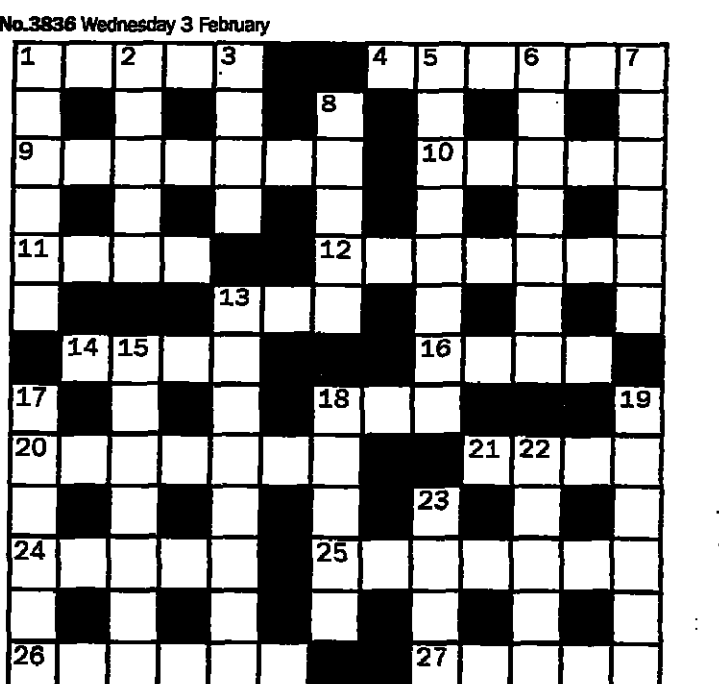
ALAN HIRON

THE BIDDING on this deal was straightforward and, as South gloomily reflected afterwards, so should the play have been. He fell, however, into a trap into which many other declarers might well have fallen. In a way, I suppose, he had followed the line of least resistance.

South opened One Diamond. North responded One Spade and, in old-fashioned style, South rebid Three no-trumps to end the auction. West led ♠5 against 3 no-trumps and, after winning East's jack with his queen, South took stock. Tricks were needed in both spades and diamonds (the so-called "pointed" suits) and, as the lead was very conveniently in the South hand, it seemed a good idea to start with the spade finesse. It was not a good idea - East won and the defenders cleared the clubs. Now, when the diamond finesse failed, West came to his long clubs and declarer ended one off. Certainly both suits were needed, but declarer should have resisted the temptation to play them in this order. His best line, after winning the first trick, is to play the ace and another diamond. Now, who-

| Love all; dealer South | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| North | South |
| ♠ A J 9 3 | |
| ♥ 8 6 5 | |
| ♦ J 9 7 2 | |
| ♣ 9 4 | |
| West | East |
| ♠ 7 4 2 | ♠ K 6 |
| ♥ Q 9 | ♥ K 7 4 3 2 |
| ♦ K 4 | ♦ 8 6 5 |
| ♣ K 10 7 5 2 | ♣ J 8 3 |
| South | |
| ♠ Q 10 5 | |
| ♥ A J 10 | |
| ♦ A Q 10 3 | |
| ♣ A Q 6 | |

CONCISE CROSSWORD



- | ACROSS | DOWN |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Compel (5) | 1 Legendary (6) |
| 4 Giving pain (6) | 2 Memento (5) |
| 9 Material used to stabilise (7) | 3 Test of knowledge (4) |
| 10 Count (5) | 4 At reduced cost (3-5) |
| 11 For everyone (4) | 5 Unlawful (7) |
| 12 Ancient boat (7) | 6 Hot spring (6) |
| 13 Inquire (3) | 7 Adhere (5) |
| 14 Press (4) | 13 Balloonist (8) |
| 16 Attractive (4) | 15 Need (7) |
| 18 Digit (3) | 17 Climb (6) |
| 20 Large tree (7) | 18 Bomb (5) |
| 21 Footwear item (4) | 19 Leading light? (6) |
| 24 Heather (5) | 22 Hair dye (5) |
| 25 Of few words (7) | 23 Chilled (4) |
| 26 International agreement (6) | |
| 27 Exhaust (5) | |

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Archer, 8 Jeeves (handkerchiefs), 10 Trachea, 11 Donor, 12 Avar, 13 Sling, 17 Agate, 18 Mayo, 21 Fern, 23 Omelette, 24 United, 25 Acre, 26 DOWN: 1 Rat-trap, 2 Scrapes, 3 Mouth, 4 Dead-end, 5 Event, 6 Urny, 9 Mactrom, 14 Egghead, 15 Baroque, 16 Holsier, 19 Spout, 20 Drill, 21 Beach.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

IT'S AN UNREMITTING day on the History Channel. Biography (1pm) profiles Josef Stalin (right), the man whose ruthless rule of the Soviet empire caused millions to die. Later episodes of *Biography* document the baleful impact of Adolf Hitler (7pm), the Nazi leader, and of his henchman Adolf Eichmann (9pm), whose leadership of the Jewish department in the Gestapo led to the deportation of millions to the extermination

camp. None of the programmes make for comfortable viewing. The good thing about Woody Allen is that even after so many years as a film-maker, he is not afraid to experiment. Everyone Says I Love You (8pm Sky Premier), a musical romantic comedy, may be only a partial success, but it is worth seeing if only for the sight of actors such as Goldie Hawn and Allen himself crooning. JAMES RAMPTON



Woody Allen

Sceptical Series (8.45-9.15pm), 10.00 Searching for Lost Worlds (8.45-9.15pm), 11.00 Mosquito Story (9.00-9.15pm), 11.00 Intrigue in Istanbul (8.45-9.15pm), 1.00 History's Turning Points (8.45-9.15pm), 1.30 Wheel Nuts (9.00-9.15pm), 2.00 Close.

SKY ONE 7.00 Court Ductile (9.15-9.30), 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (7.30-9.30), 8.30 Hollywood Squares (9.00-9.15pm), 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (9.15-9.30), 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (9.15-9.30), 11.00 Gullit! (9.00-9.15pm), 12.00 Jerry Jones (9.00-9.15pm), 1.00 Mad about You (9.00-9.15pm), 1.30 Jeopardy (9.00-9.15pm), 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (9.00-9.15pm), 3.00 Jerry Jones (9.15-9.30), 4.00 Gullit! (9.00-9.15pm), 5.00 Star Trek - Deep Space Nine (9.15-9.30), 6.00 Married with Children (9.00-9.15pm), 6.30 Friends (9.00-9.15pm), 7.00 The Simpsons (9.00-9.15pm), 7.30 The Simpsons (9.00-9.15pm), 8.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 8.30 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 9.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 9.30 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 10.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 10.30 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 12.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 12.30 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 1.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 1.30 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 2.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 2.30 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 3.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 3.30 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 4.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 4.30 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 5.30 Star Trek: Voyager (9.00-9.15pm), 6.00 Star Trek: 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